ドラゴンクエスト列伝

ロトの紋章

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DRAGON QUEST

1

GANGAN COMICS

作画 藤原カムイ 原作 川又千秋

ロトの紋章 1
藤原カムイ 川又千秋

ENIX 0000

雑誌48110-01 定価400円(本体388円)
ISBN4-87025-000-4 C0279 P400E

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ロトの紋章(もんしょう)

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原作(げんさく) 川又千秋(かわまたちあき)

GANGAN COMICS

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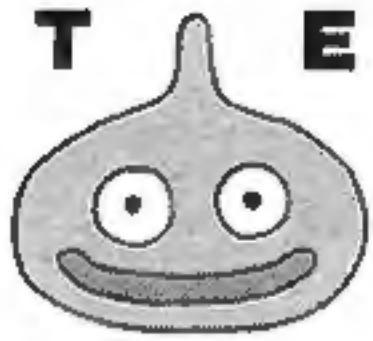

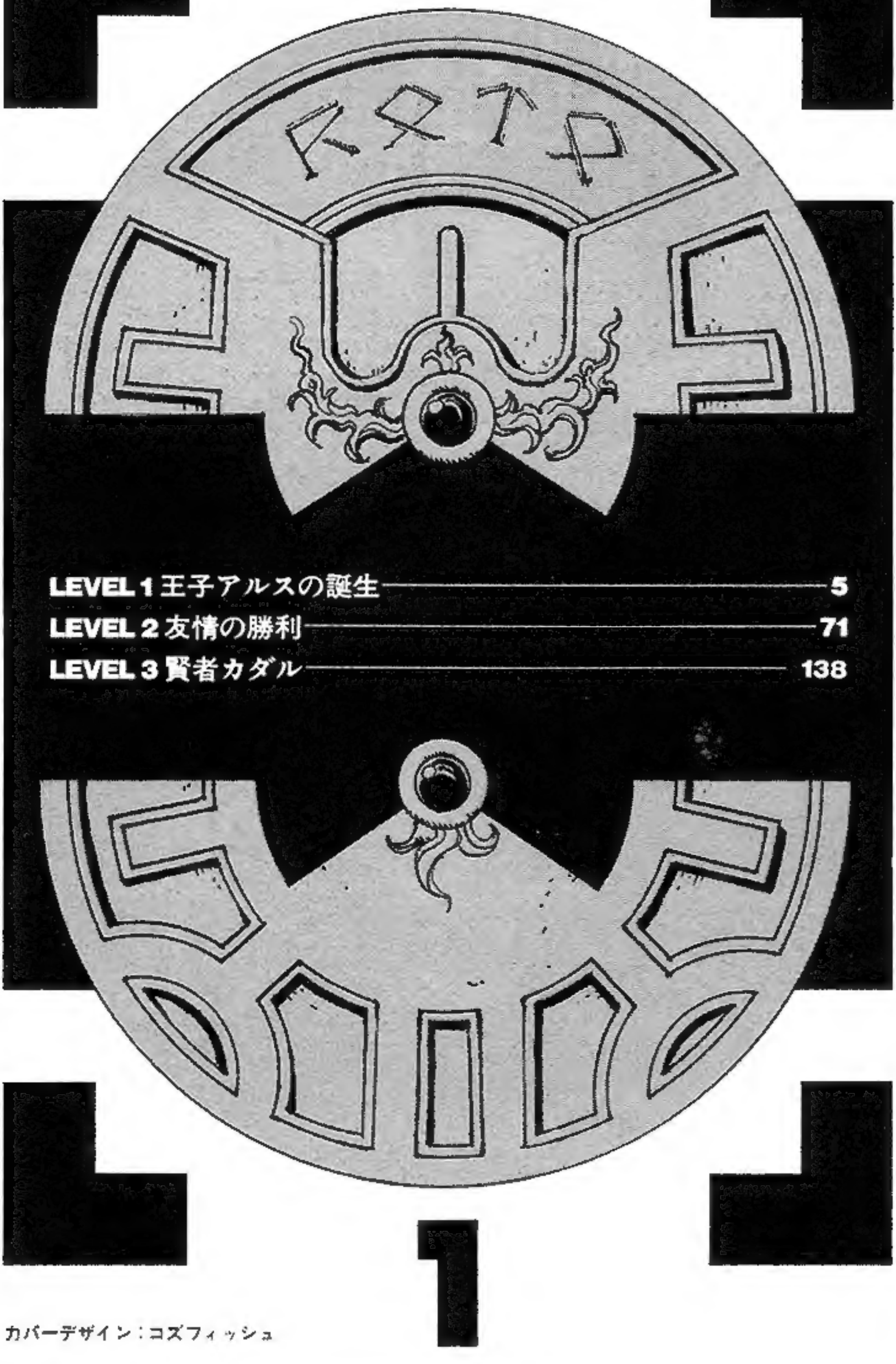

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LEVEL:1

王子アルスの誕生

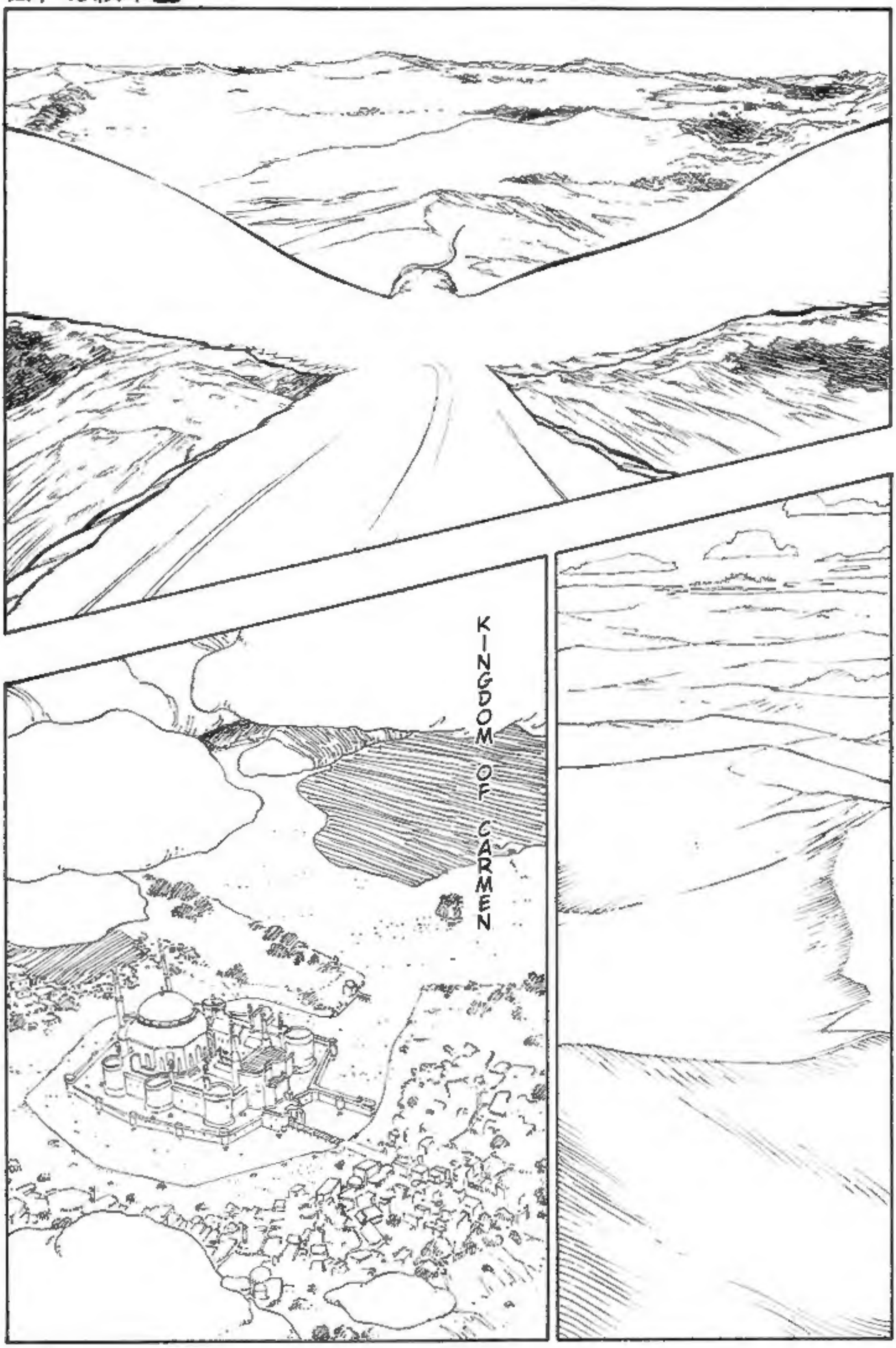
THE BIRTH OF PRINCE ARUS

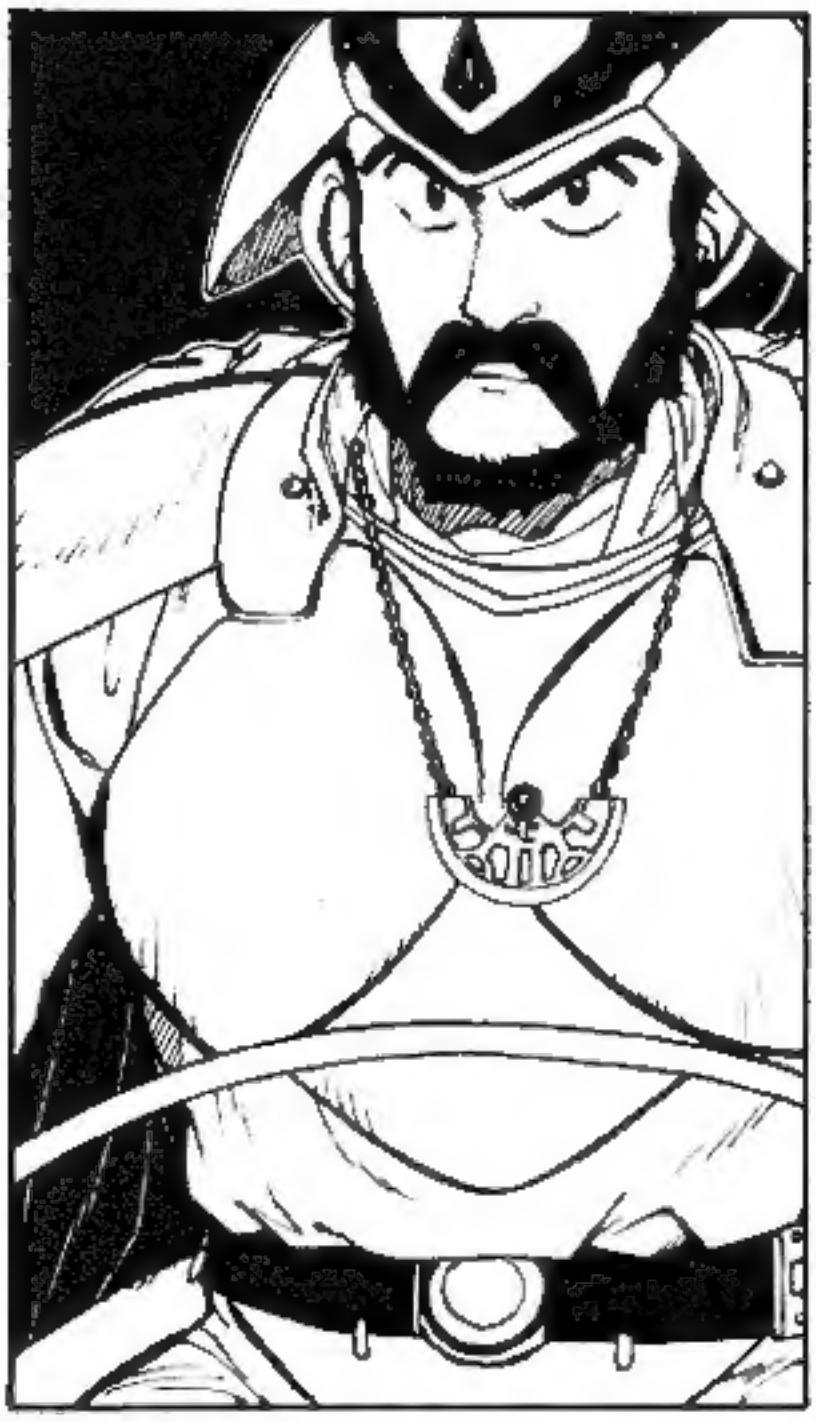
AFTER THE DEFEAT OF THE DEMON LORD BARAMES, AND SUBSEQUENTLY HIS MASTER ZOMA, PEACE WAS RESTORED TO THE WORLD AND GRADUALLY, DAYLIGHT RETURNED.....

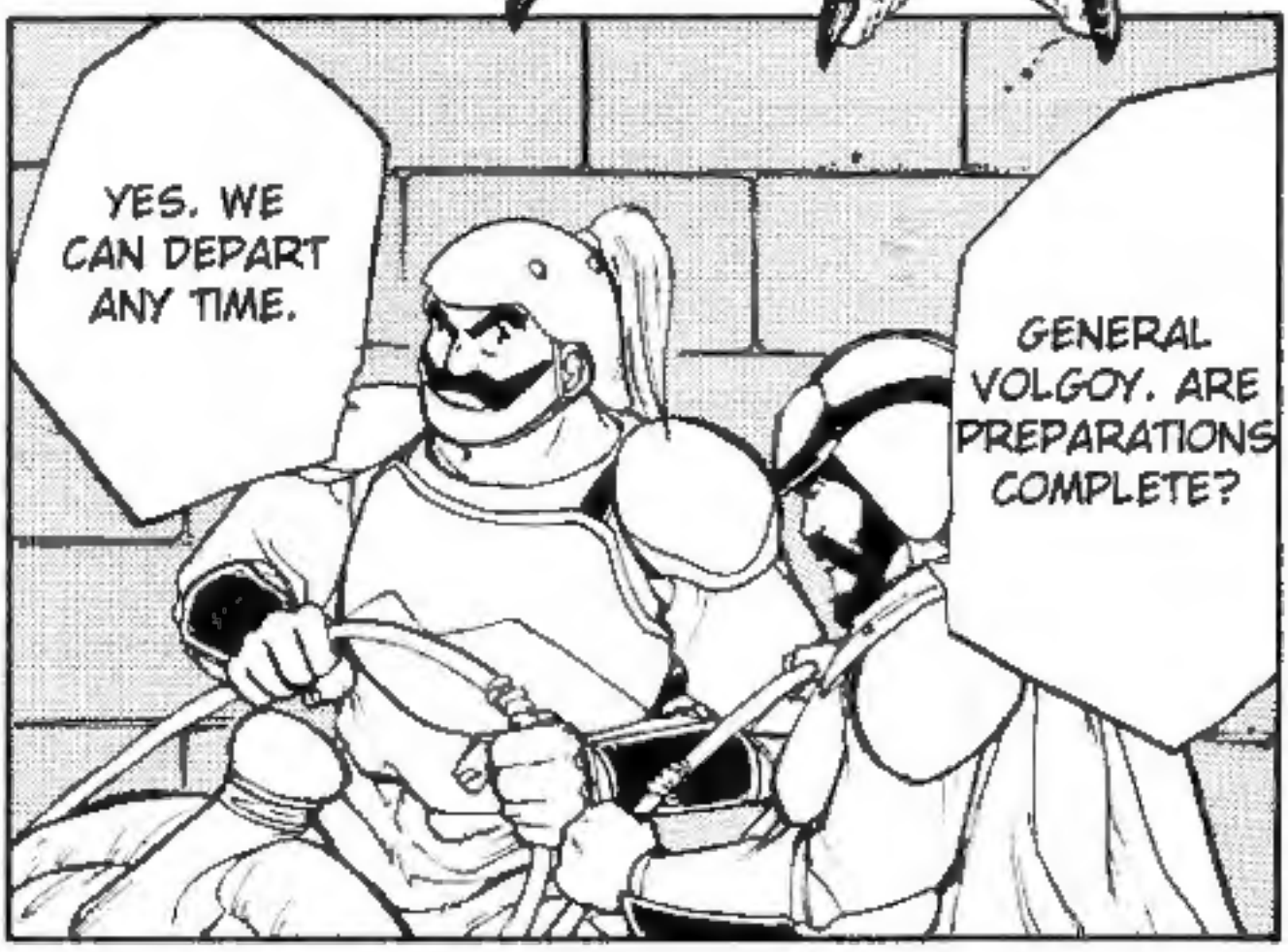
THE TWO BROTHERS' NAMES WERE LORAN AND CARMEN. SPLITTING THEIR INHERITANCE FROM THEIR FATHER, THE "SYMBOL OF ROTO," INTO TWO HALVES, THEY EACH FOUNDED THEIR OWN KINGDOM: NORTHERN LORAN AND SOUTHERN CARMEN. THE KINGDOMS BOTH FOURISHED, ENJOYING A LONG PERIOD OF LOVE, PEACE, AND PROSPERITY.

AND IT WAS THERE, WHERE UPON HEARING WORDS OF ADVICE FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT RUBESS, TWO BROTHERS SHARING THE BLOOD OF ROTO DECIDED TO LEAVE ALEFGARD.

AND SO 100 YEARS LATER...


KINGDOM OF CARMEN




YES. WE CAN DEPART ANY TIME.
GENERAL VOLGOY. ARE PREPARATIONS COMPLETE?

AND THAT GIRL, LUNAFREA... TODAY IS HER FIRST BATTLE, ISN'T IT.

SO THE RUMORS I HEARD WERE TRUE. LEADING HER KNIGHT BATALLION TO VICTORY, SHE FIGHTS WITH THE FEROCITY OF TEN MEN. IS THAT NOT THE WAY IT IS?

YES SIR! WITHOUT A MOTHER RAISING HER, SHE WAS NEVER INTO WHAT THEY CALL "GIRL STUFF." BARRING THAT, THE BEST OPTION FOR HER WAS LEARNING HOW TO USE A SWORD.

：

ALRIGHT! WE SHALL ADVANCE TO THE CAVE OF NECROGOND THROUGH THE HIDDEN FOREST ROUTE!

YES SIR! THANK YOU FOR BESTOWING THIS GREAT HONOR UPON US

WELL! IF THAT'S SO, SUCH A PERSON WOULD BE VERY WELL-SUITED TO GUARD THE HEIR. DON'T YOU AGREE, VOLGOY?

YEAH!!

LORD CARMEN! I SEE LADY ROSA ON THE CASTLE BATTLEMENTS.

PERHAPS IT WOULD BE FOR THE BEST IF MY LORD STAYED IN THE CASTLE?

THAT IS OUT OF THE QUESTION! I REFUSE TO SIT IDLE IN THE CASTLE WHILE DEVIL WORSHIPPING SAVAGES RAVAGE OUR TERRITORY!

THE QUEEN MUST BE FEELING VERY HELPLESS WITH THE BIRTH COMING SO SOON.

NOW, WE MUST HURRY!

IN BATTLE, STANDING AT THE HEAD OF THE VANGUARD, THE HEIR TO THE BLOOD OF THE HERO ROTO, THE KING MUST REMAIN FIRM AND PROUD!

JUST NOW, I WITNESSED A VISION FROM GOD!

WHAT IS IT, TARKIN?

ドドドドド

LADY ROSA! I MUST SPEAK WITH YOU! AT ONCE!

THEN... THE PRINCE...!

THAT NAME, RECIEVED FROM GOD, WAS ARUS! HE BEARS THE "MARK OF ROTO!" IT IS SAID IN THE HOLY SCRIPTURES THAT ONCE NAMED, HE WILL BE PROTECTED FROM EVIL!

EVEN WITH THE BIRTH SO CLOSE AT HAND, I WAS SHOCKED TO FIND THAT UPON A SURFACE OF WATER, THE CHILD'S NAME WAS INSCRIBED!

PRINCE... ...ARUS!

CONGRATULATIONS, MY QUEEN! YES, YOUR CHILD WILL GROW INTO A TRUE PRINCE!

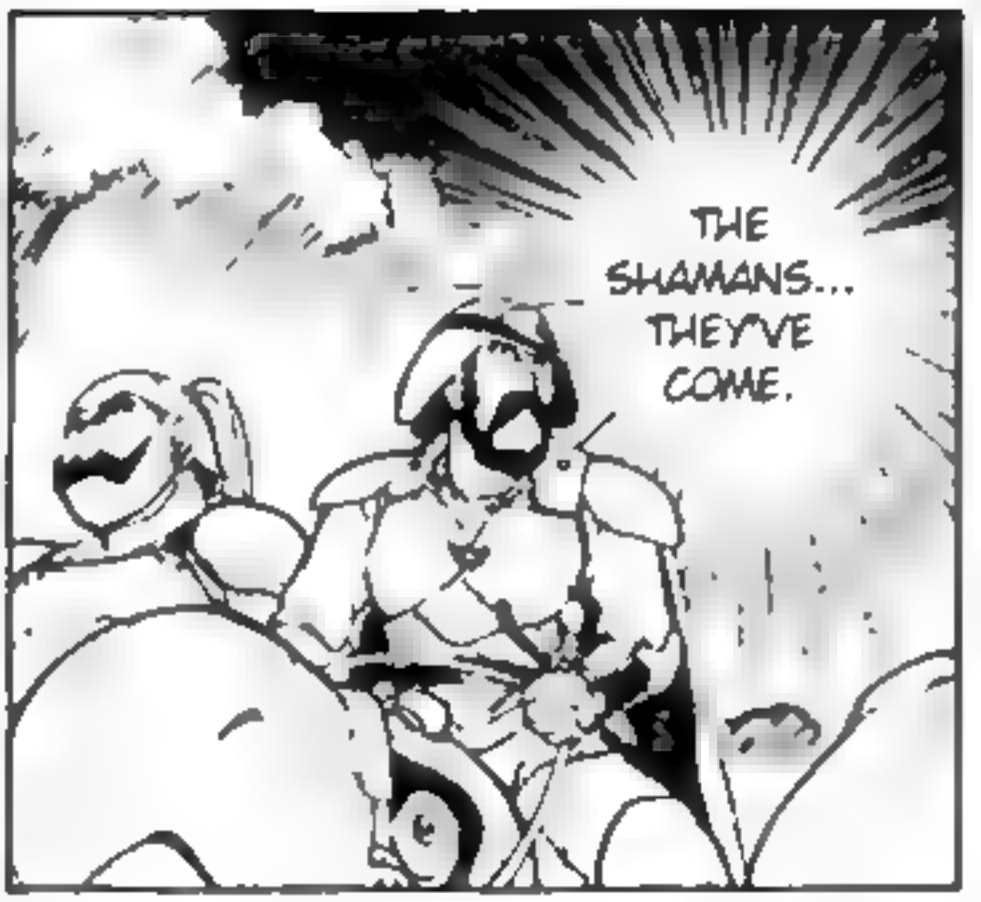
FOR OUR SAKE, AND FOR ARUS'S...

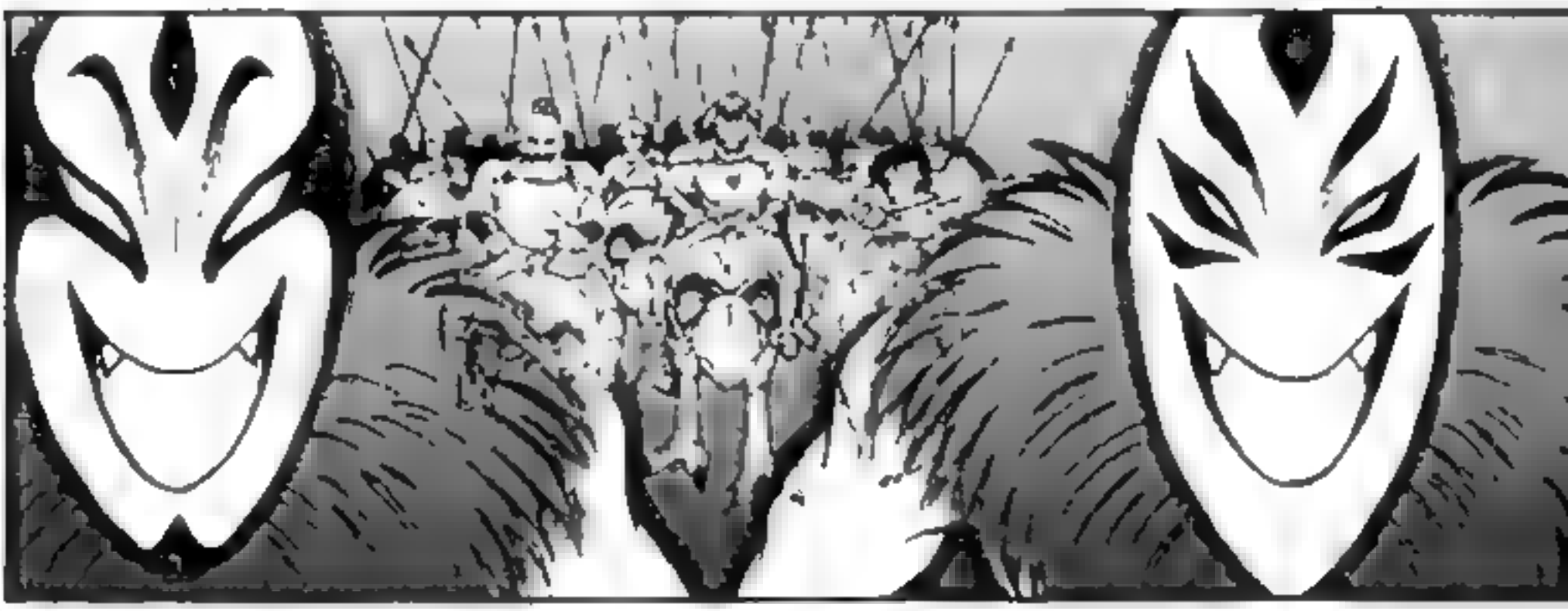
MY KING... PLEASE BE SAFE...

GOOD LUCK!

GO FOR IT!

YEAH!


THE SHAMANS... THEY'VE COME.



DON'T LET THEM GET IN OUR WAY!

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WAAA!

KYAAA!

ドドドドド

THE SHAMANS SEEM TO BE COMING FROM SOME SORT OF SHRINE

GENERAL!

HM?

LEAVE IT TO I, VOLGOY, YOUR HIGHEST GENERAL!

ALRIGHT. WE'LL CHARGE THROUGH TO IT IN ONE STRIKE, THEN!

WHAT? A SHRINE, YOU SAY?

HAA!

THEN I TRUST YOU WILL FORGIVE ME.

AND IF WE DON'T MAKE IT THROUGH?

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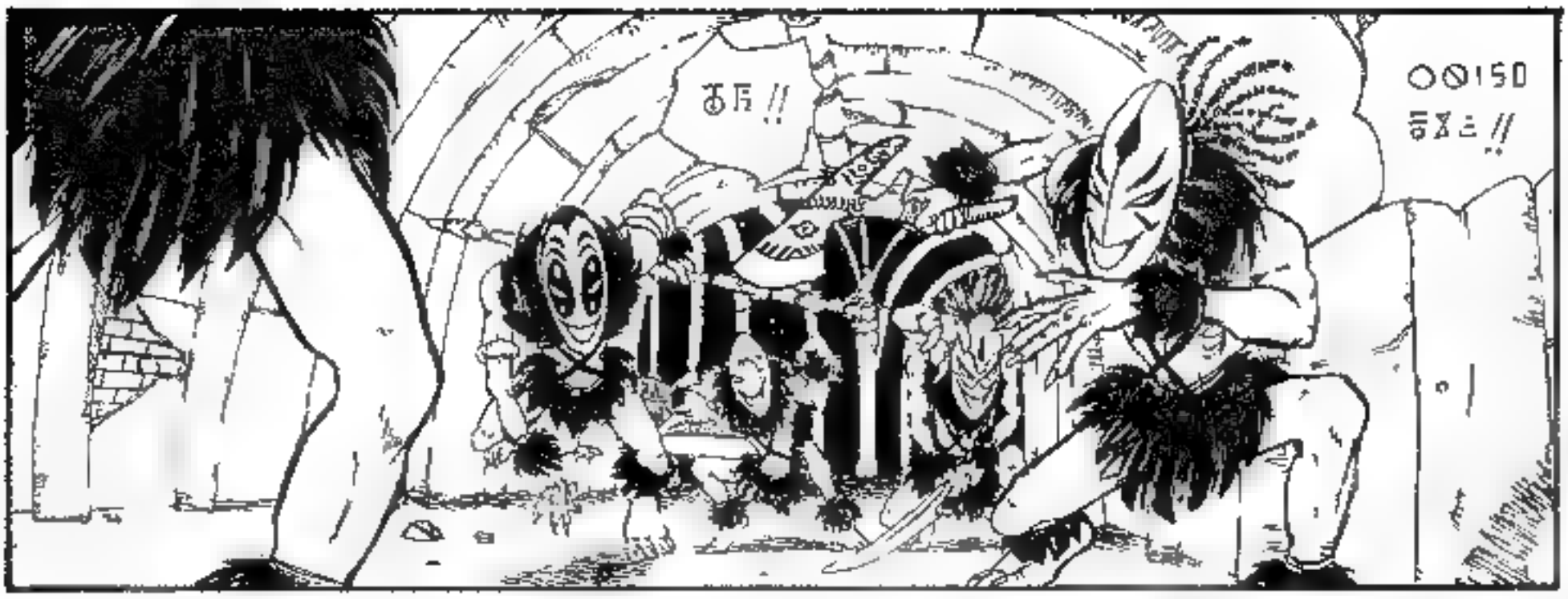
I'VE SPOTTED IT! IT'S OVER THERE!

IT'S EVEN UGLIER THAN THE SHAMANS WHO LIVE THERE


OUTTA THE WAY!!
HIYAAA!
HM!

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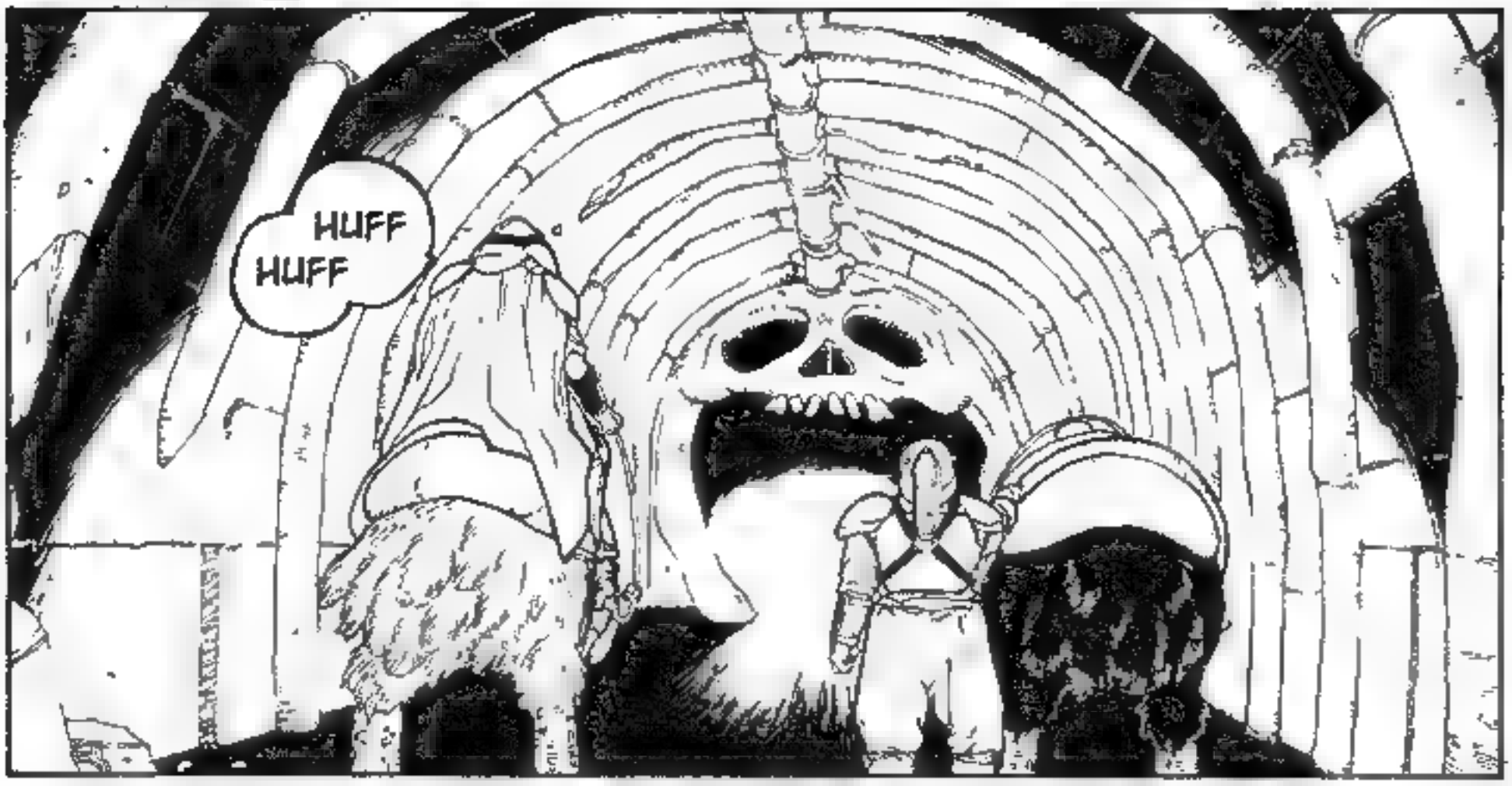
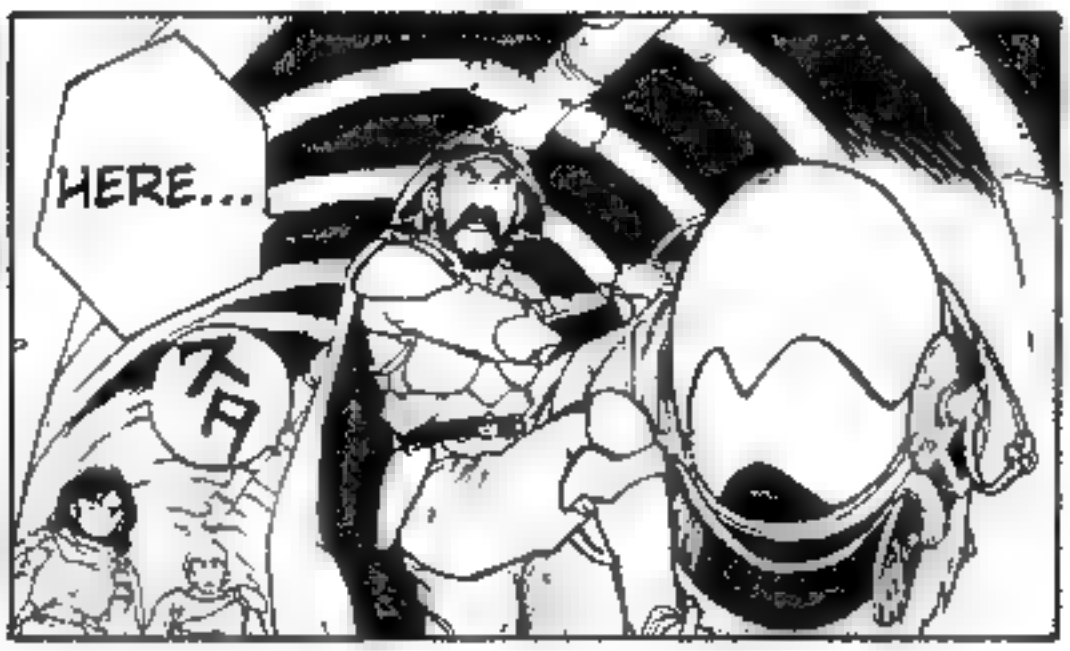




IT'S GIVING ME A BAD FEELING... ALMOST AS IF IT WAS CHARMED.

I'LL CRUSH THIS THING RIGHT HERE AND NOW!

HMPH! SO THIS MUST BE THE DEVIL THAT THEY WORSHIP...

WHAT'S WRONG?

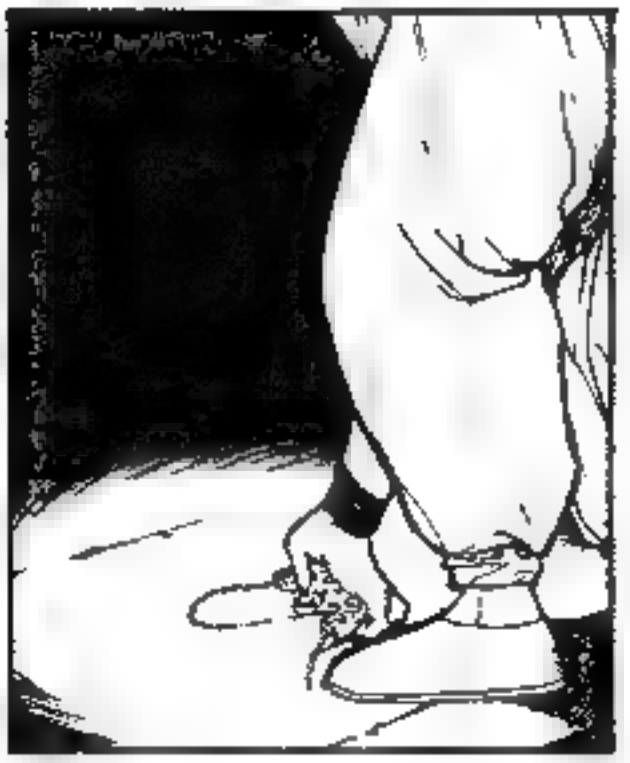
N...NO... I JUST CHANGED MY MIND.

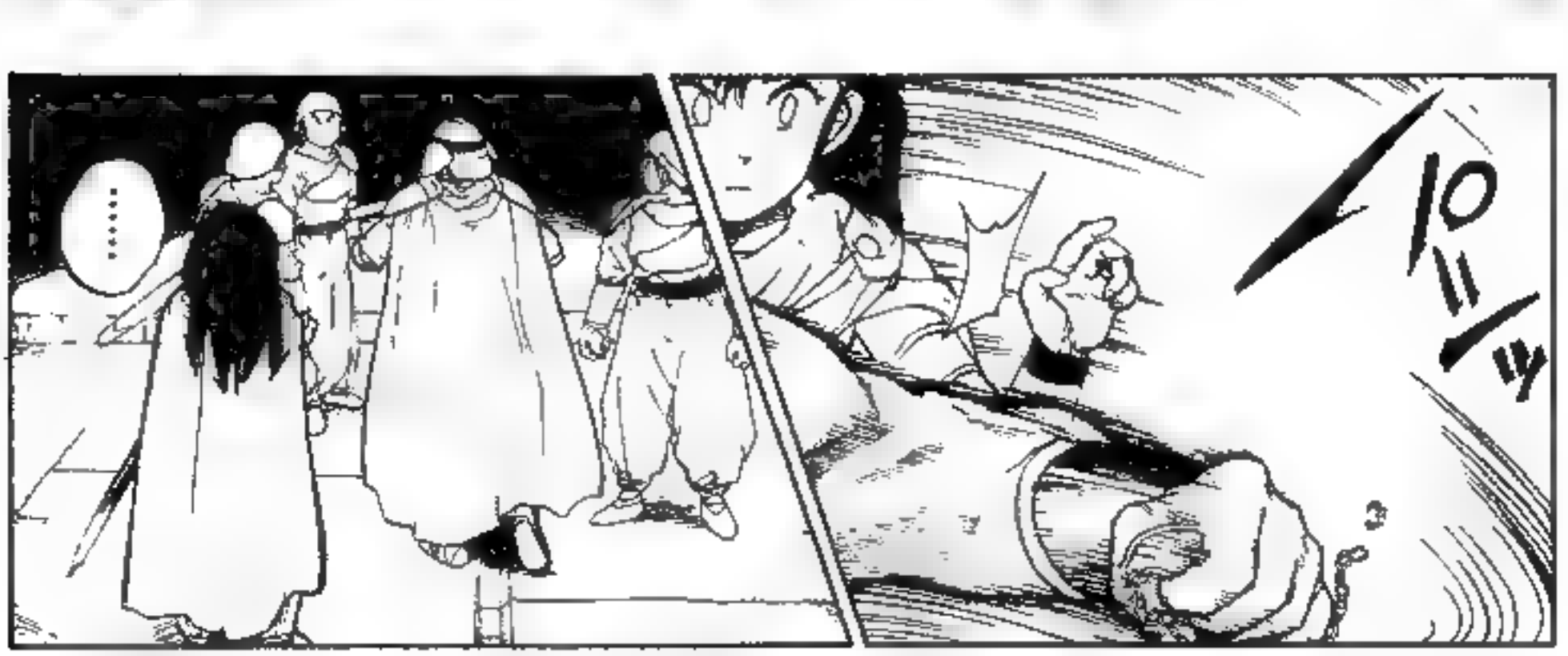
THIS PETTY LITTLE THING IS POINTLESS TO DESTROY... BUT IT COULD BE USED FOR LEVERAGE OVER THEM.

YESSIR!

WHAT? YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY MEAN TO BRING THAT EVIL CHARM WITH US!

SHUT YER MOUTH AND DO YER JOB! LEAD THE TROOPS BACK TO THE CASTLE!

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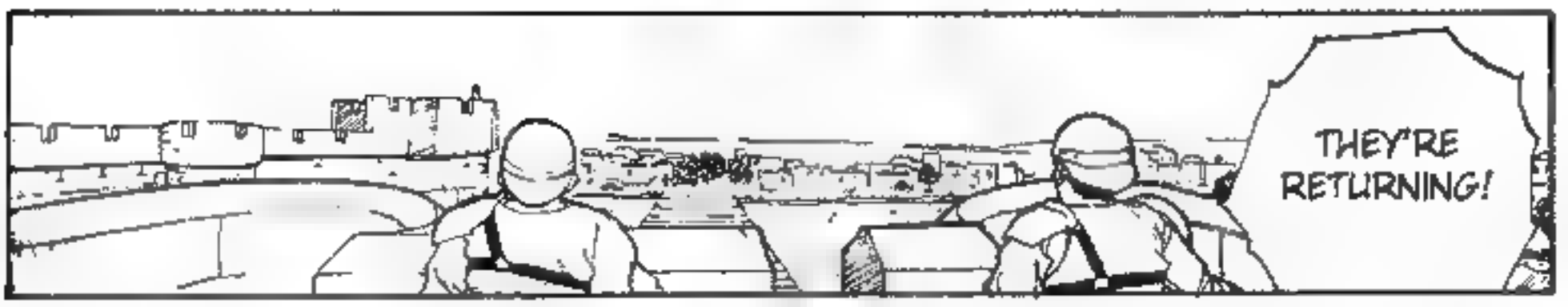
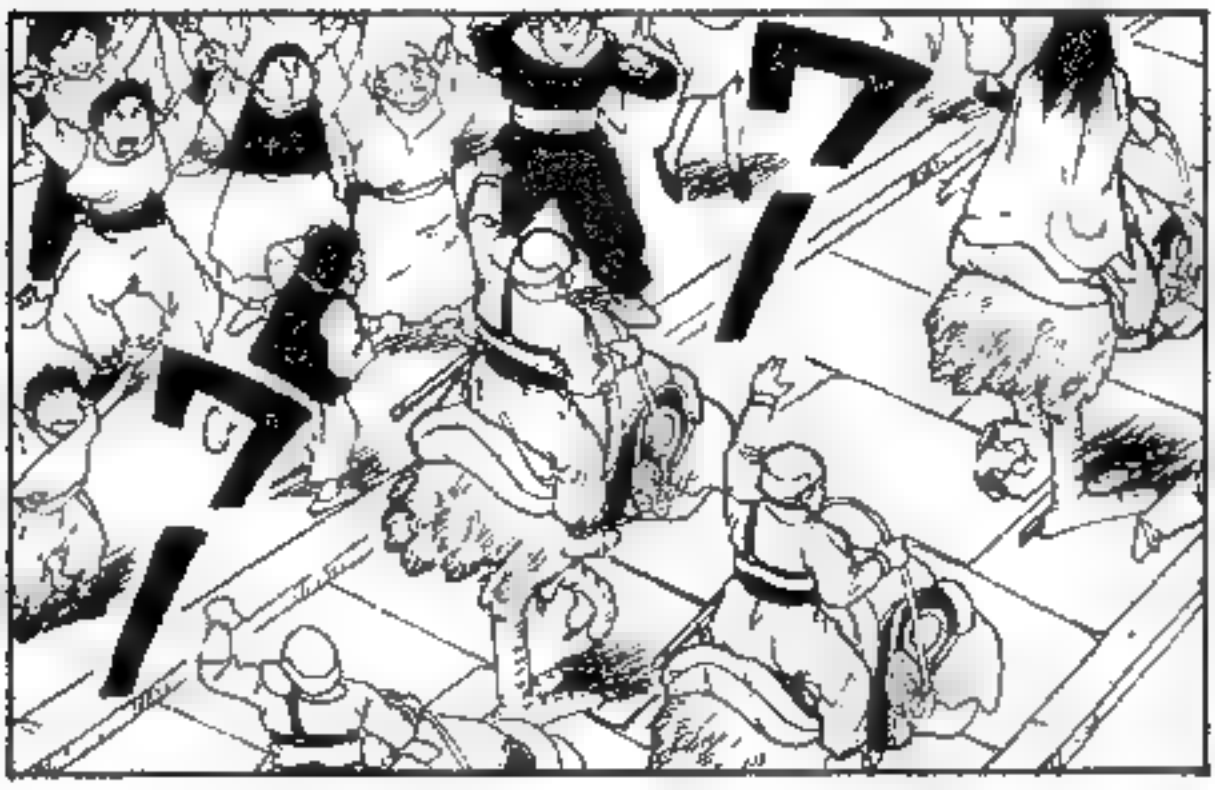
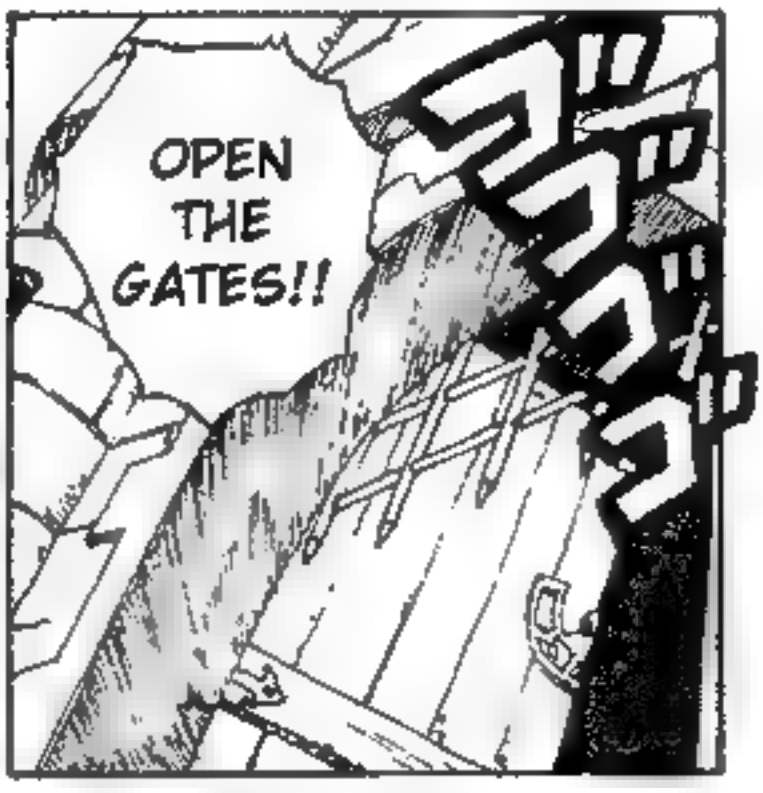
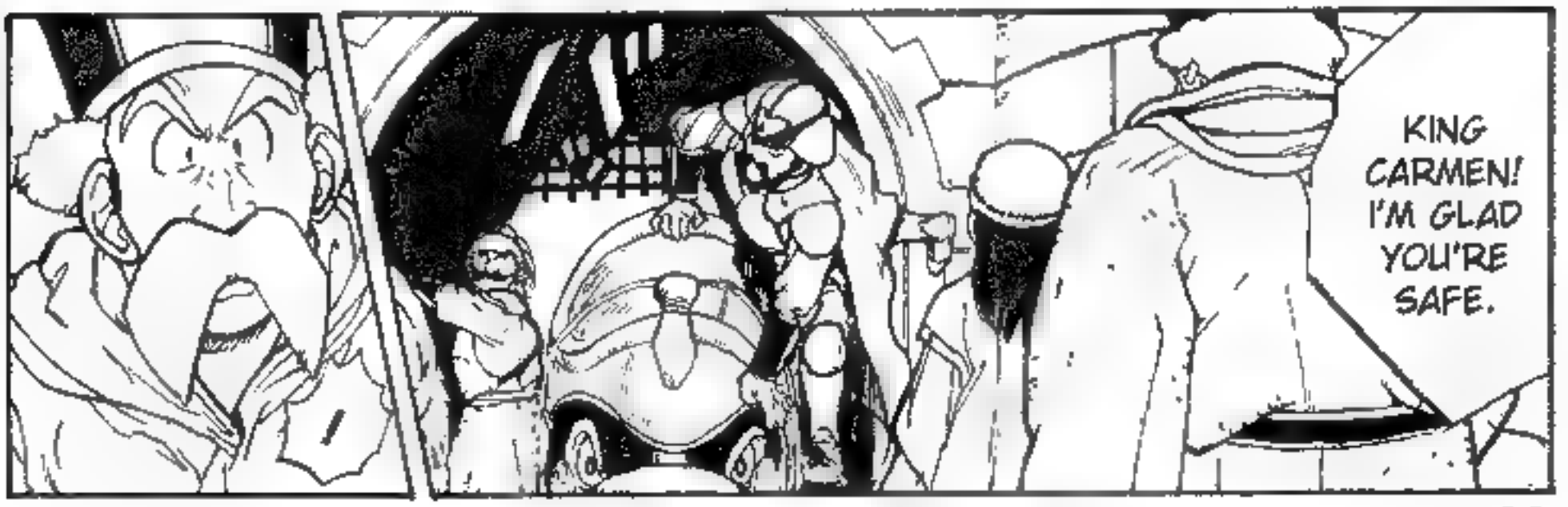
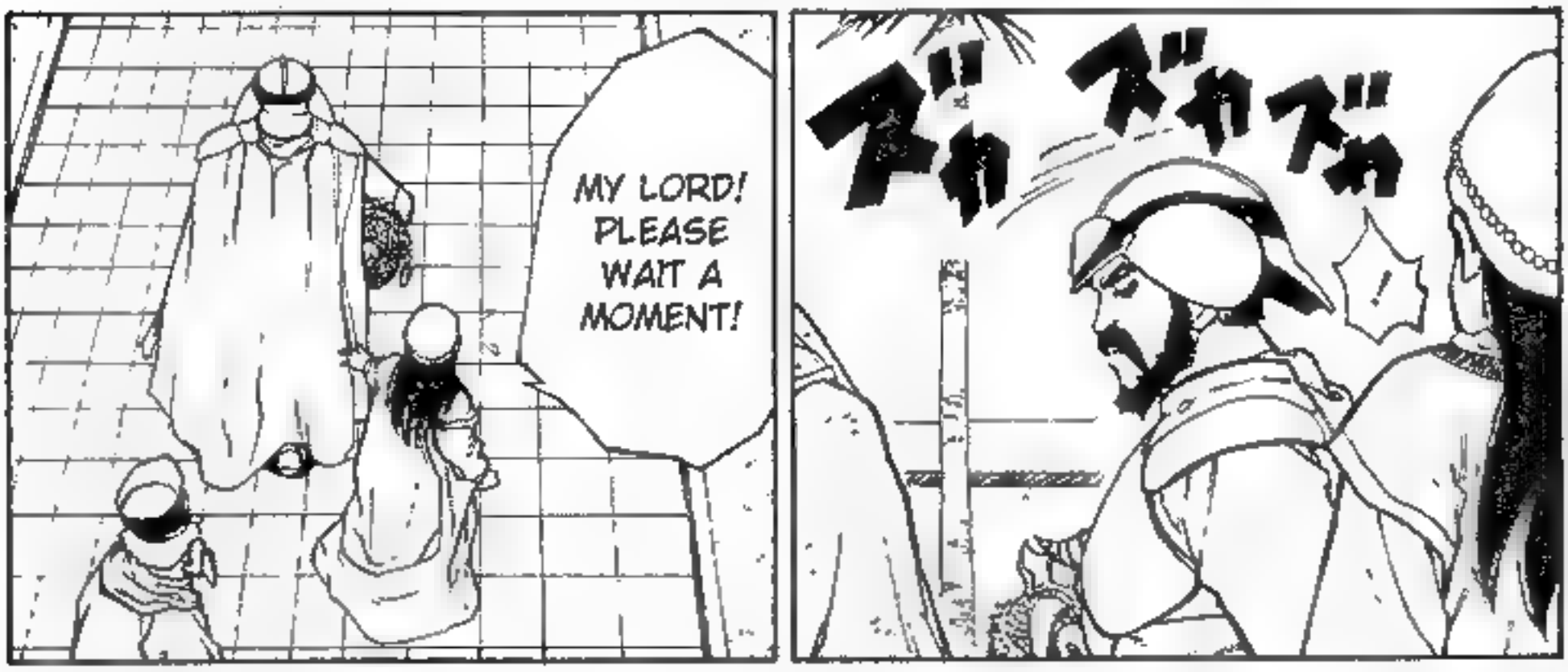

THEY'RE RETURNING!




OPEN THE GATES!!


KING CARMEN! I'M GLAD YOU'RE SAFE.

WELCOME HOME, MILORD!


MY LORD! PLEASE WAIT A MOMENT!
ズカズカ
!

YOU SEE, THIS MORNING, I FOUND SOMETHING OUT! OUR SOON TO BE BORN PRINCE WAS GIVEN A NAME BLESSED BY HEAVEN!
!

ROSA... WHAT IS IT? I'M TIRED RIGHT NOW.

BUT, I'M JUST SO HAPPY!
Y-YES

WHAT!

Y... YES! AND WE ARE TO GIVE HIM THAT NAME AT A CHRISTENING CEREMONY...

PRINCE!

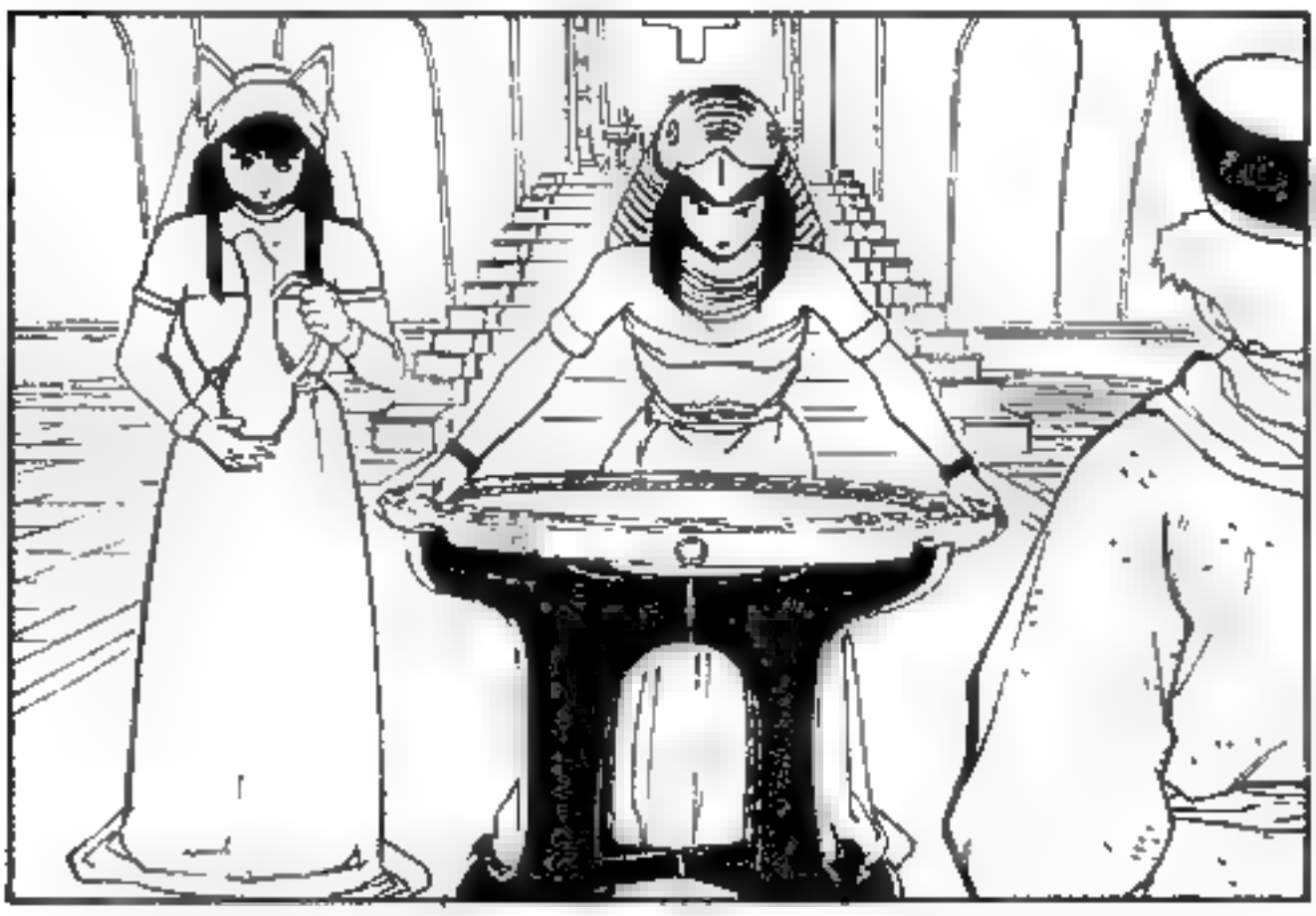
MY LIEGE!

...AND JUST WHAT IS THIS NAME, GIVEN FROM HEAVEN?

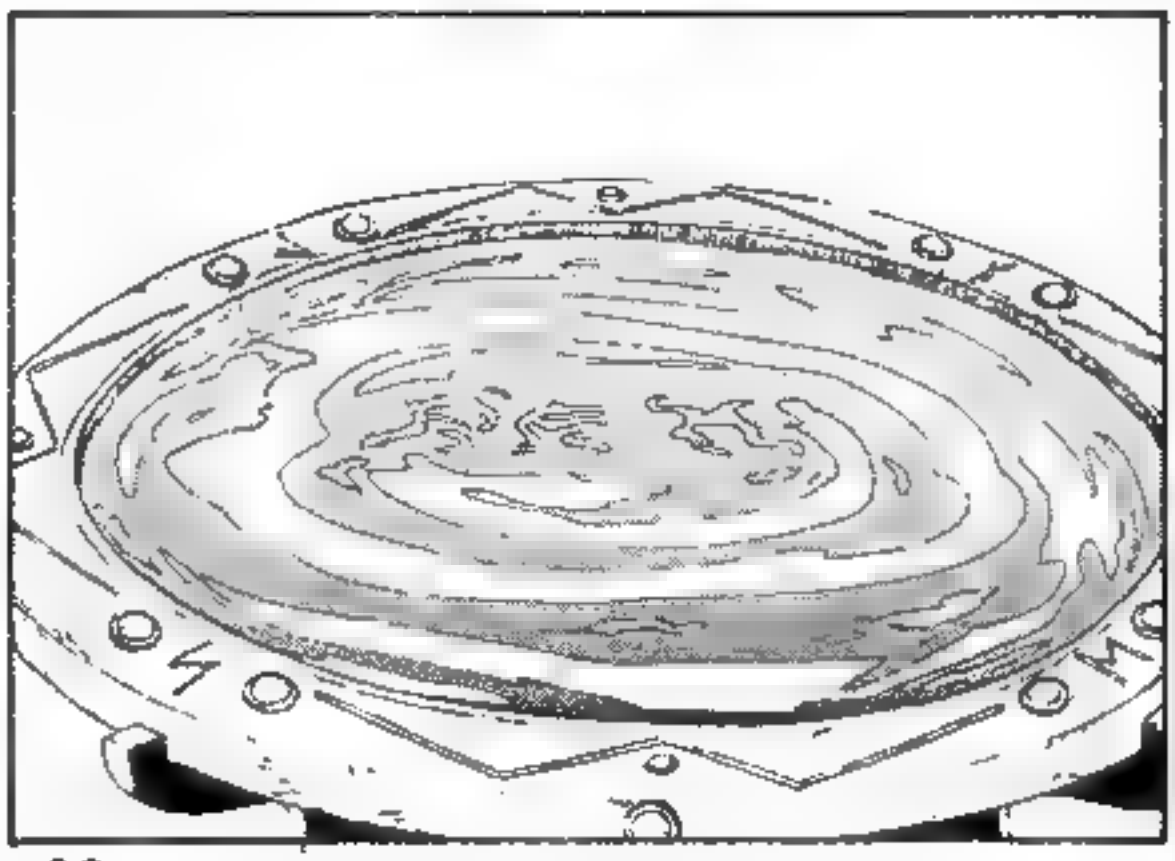
THEN WE SHALL VISIT THE SHRINE!

HMM... I SUPPOSE THAT'S TRUE.

ALTHOUGH YOU'RE TIRED FROM BATTLE, PERHAPS IT WOULD BE BEST FOR YOU TO WITNESS THE NAME WITH YOUR OWN EYES?



I'LL POUR
HOLY
WATER
INTO IT.



PLEASE
OBSERVE,
YOUR
HIGHNESS.

A... RU... S... ARUS, IS IT?

YOU THINK I'LL BELIEVE THIS RUBBISH!?

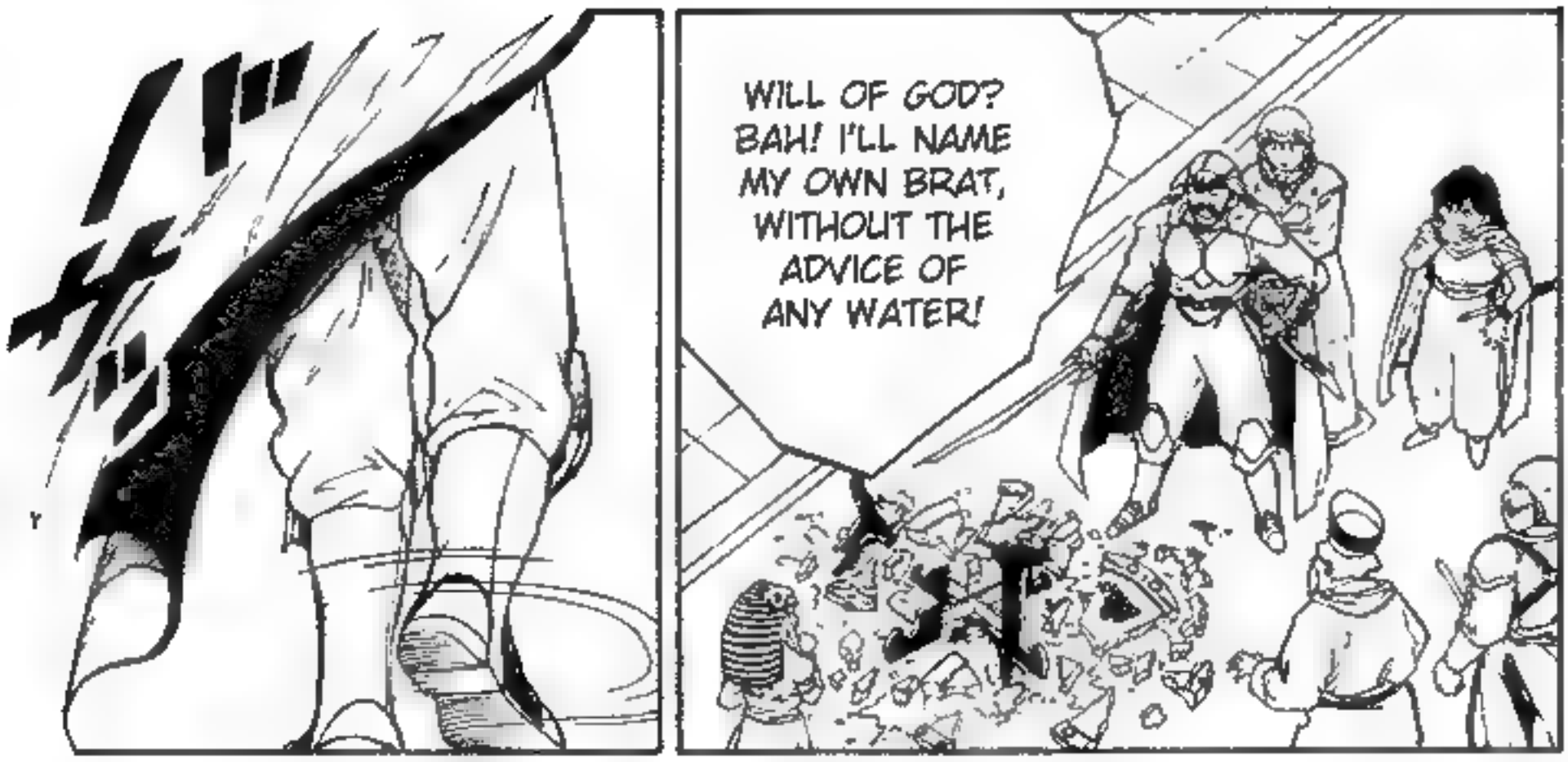
DO YOU TAKE THIS KING FOR A FOOL!?

ISN'T IT A BEAUTIFUL NAME?

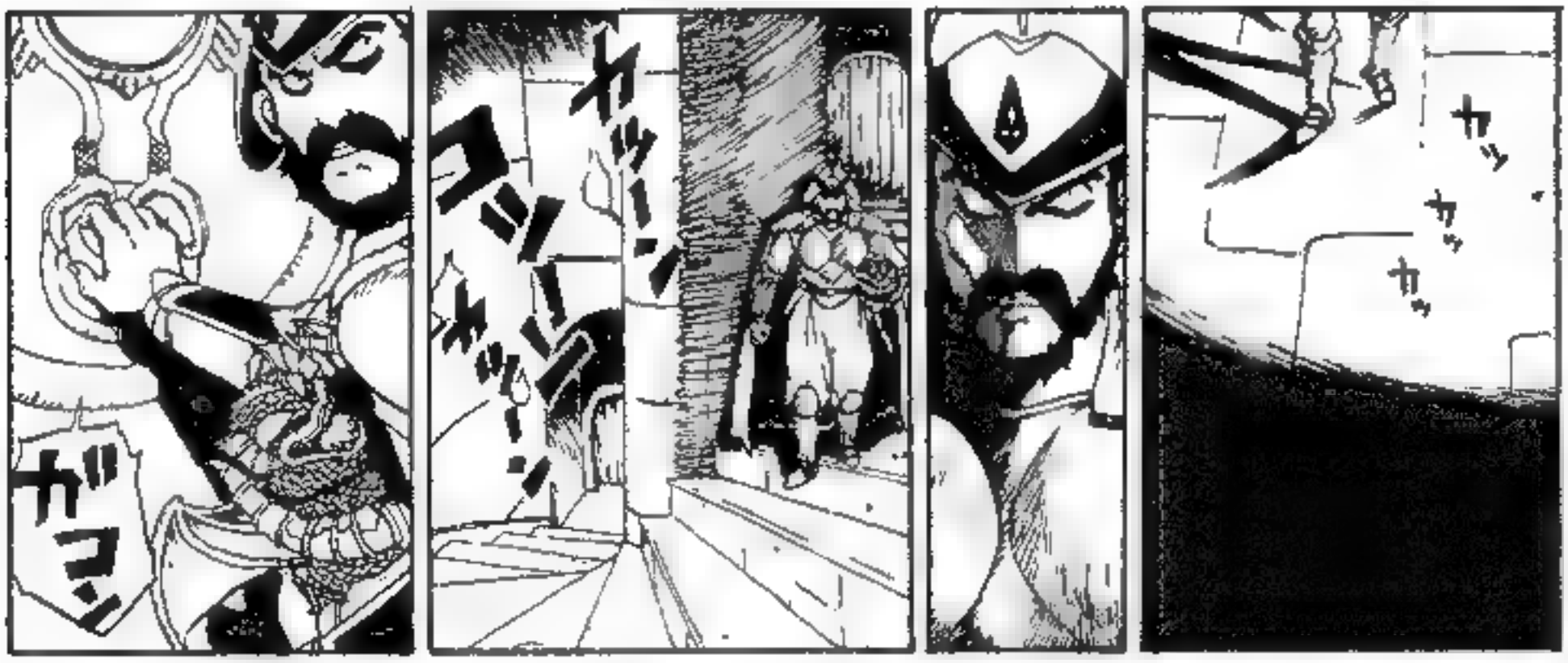
SHADDUP!

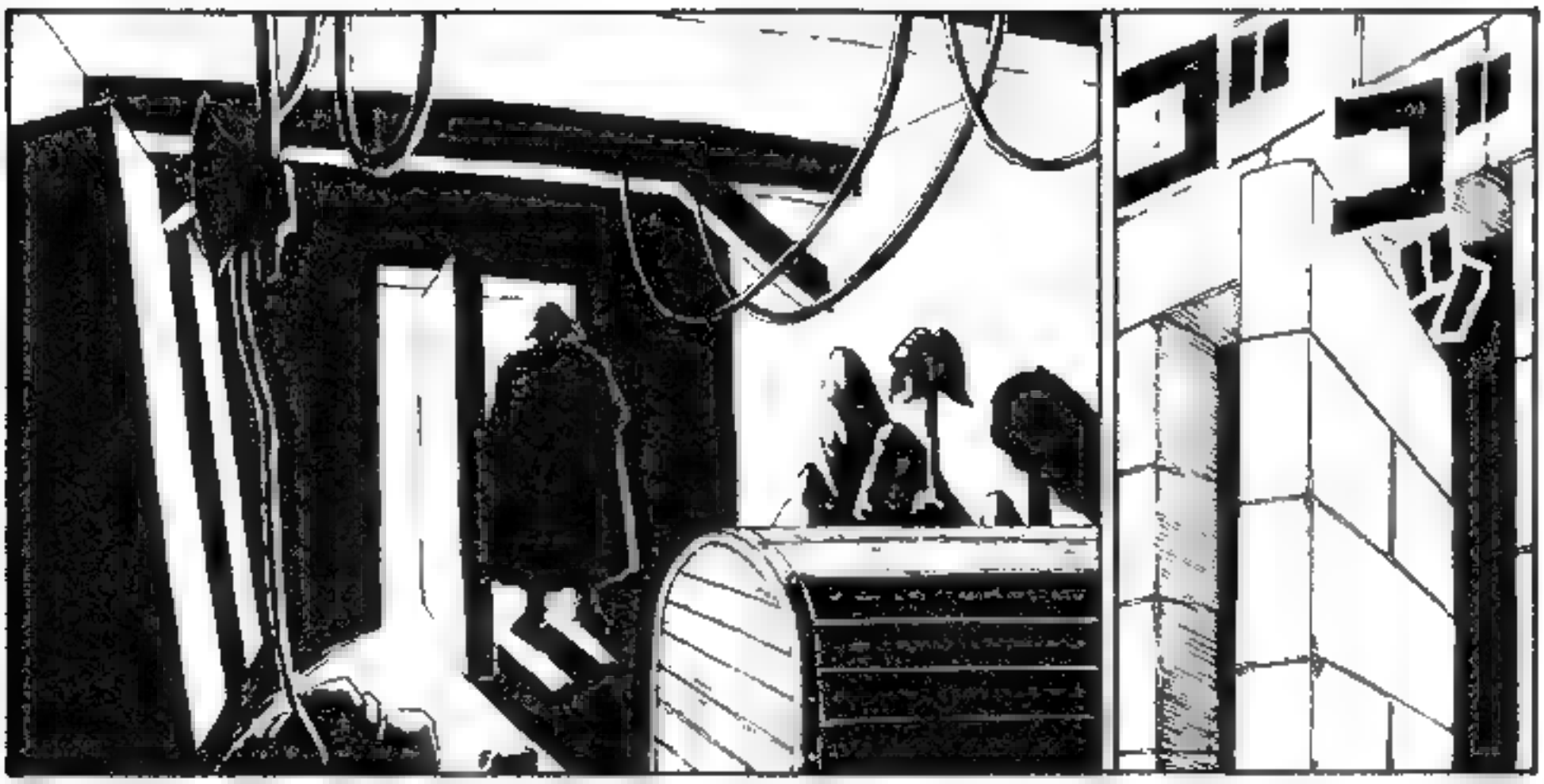
RUBBISH? WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

THIS IS THE WILL OF GOD, A NAME TO PROTECT OUR PRINCE FROM EVIL INFLUENCE!


WILL OF GOD? BAH! I'LL NAME MY OWN BRAT, WITHOUT THE ADVICE OF ANY WATER!

PLEASE DON'T LET IT RUIN YOUR DAY, MILADY. I WILL SEE TO IT PERSONALLY.
THE KING... HE'S BEEN GIVING ME A BAD FEELING EVER SINCE THAT BATTLE...

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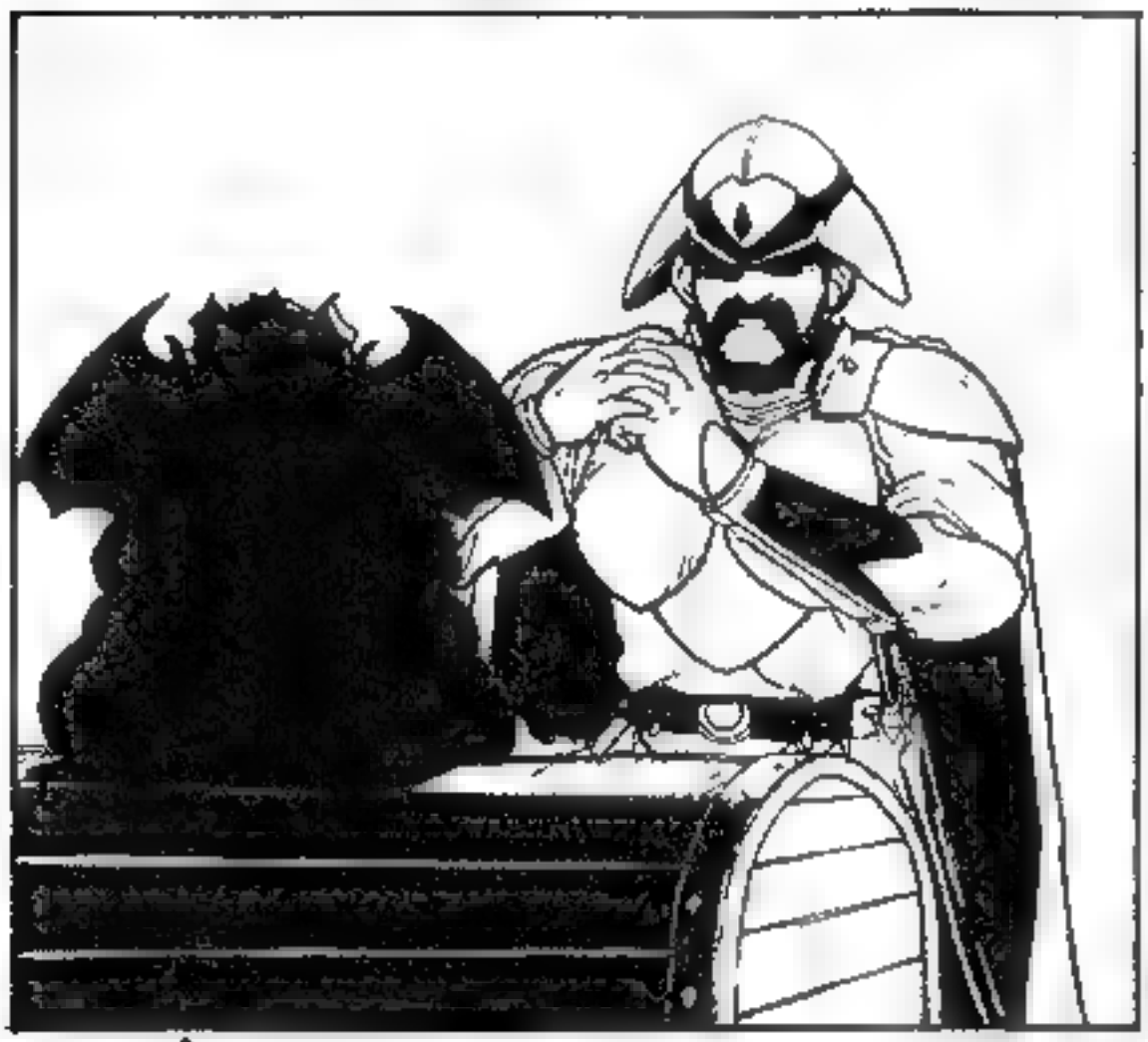

YES, DRAGON LORD! IT SEEMS THAT EVERYONE IN THE CASTLE HAS FALLEN FOR IT.

FUFUFU... DELUS, MONSTER OF MANY FORMS. YOUR IMPERSONATION WAS VERY CLEVER.

I APPRECIATE YOUR WORDS! DRAGON LORD, PLEASE TELL ME OF YOUR FURTHER PLANS.

IT ONLY TOOK YOU A SPLIT SECOND TO ASSUME THAT FORM, JUST ENOUGH TIME TO SAVE THIS "FALSE IDOL" AND TAKE IT WITH YOU.

VERY WELL DONE!

HE WILL BOW TO LORD "IMAGINE!"

AND WE SHALL REAR HIM OURSELVES, TO INSTILL THE PROPER RESPECT FOR THE MONSTER KINGS AND FOR THE EMPEROR OF DARKNESS!

OUR NEXT OBJECTIVE IS THE PRINCE! AT BIRTH, A DEMONIC NAME BESTOWED UPON HIM WOULD CREATE A PRINCE WITH THE POWER OF ROTO AND A HEART OF DARKNESS... AN UNRIVALLED DEMONIC KING!

YOU MUST NAME HIM "JYAGAN!"

WHAT NAME SHALL I BESTOW UPON THIS PRINCE?

YES, MILORD! I UNDERSTAND, BUT...

I WILL LEAVE THE ARRANGEMENTS OF IT UP TO YOU!

WHEN THOSE DARK FORCES DOMINATE HIS SOUL COMPLETELY, HE WILL BECOME LORD IMAGINE'S WILLING SLAVE!

"JYAGAN" IS A NAME GIVEN BY LORD IMAGINE, TO STRENGTHEN THE FORCES OF DARKNESS IN HIM.

"JYAGAN!"

YES, MY LORD! AND THAT NAME WILL BE...

JYAGAN!

JYAGAN!

WHAT DID YOU SAY!?

...EHH!? BUT THE PRINCE IS TO BE CALLED ARUS...

WHEN HE IS BORN, MY SON WILL HAVE THE NAME JYAGAN.

WHAT DID YOU SAY JUST NOW!?

SILENCE, WOMAN! I DECREE THAT THE PRINCE'S NAME SHALL BE JYAGAN, AND THAT THE CHRISTENING CEREMONY WILL BE HELD WITHOUT THE CONSULTANCE OF TARKIN, OR ANY OF THE OTHERS!

AND IF YOU TRY ANYTHING FOOLISH, I SHALL CLAIM THE PRINCE FOR MYSELF!

AND SO? HAVE YOU FOUND ANY INFORMATION ABOUT THE KING?

YOU NEEDN'T ASK FOR FORGIVE-NESS!

YES.

PLEASE FORGIVE THE INTRUSION! IT IS I, VOLGOY.

!

IT IS TO MY DISMAY THAT I MUST INFORM YOU, HIGH PRIEST TARKIN HAS GIVEN HIS RESIGNATION.

HOWEVER... TODAY, I AM STARTING TO REGRET BEING A GENERAL.

YESTERDAY... IN THE TEMPLE OF THOSE SHAMANS... THE KING CONFISCATED A STRANGE ARTIFACT, WHICH HE THEN TOOK BACK TO THE CASTLE WITH HIM. IT WAS THEN THAT HE BEGAN BEHAVING STRANGELY.

THAT ARTIFACT MUST CONTAIN SOME SORT OF EVIL CHARM OR POWER...

THE TRUTH IS...

BUT... WHY WOULD HE DO SUCH A THING?

I THINK IT HAS SOME SORT OF HOLD OVER OUR KING.

AND I DON'T THINK THAT IT'S SAFE FOR YOU TO REMAIN HERE ANY LONGER

IT IS MY SWORN DUTY TO PROTECT YOU, AND I BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE BEST IF WE LEFT THE CASTLE, IN PRIVATE.

I WISH TO TAKE YOU SOMEPLACE SAFE.

AH, ALL OF THIS IS TOO MUCH...

WHAT SHOULD I DO...?

WITH LUNAFREA AT YOUR SIDE, PROTECTING YOU, YOU WILL HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR.

I WILL SEE TO THE ARRANGEMENTS PERSONALLY, AND ACT AS A DECOY WHILE MY DAUGHTER TAKES YOU TO SAFETY.

LADY ROSA, YOU MUST BE STRONG!

YOU! WHAT BUSINESS DO YOU HAVE IN MY WIFE'S PRIVATE CHAMBERS!? GUARDS, ESCORT HIM OUT!

!

!

I'M PERFECTLY CAPABLE OF LEAVING ON MY OWN TWO FEET!

DAMNIT, LET GO OF ME!

WAAAH!

WAAAHHH!

THE CHILD

IT'S A BOY!

THE QUEEN HAS GIVEN BIRTH!

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ｱｯ

10 HOURS LATER~~~~

FULL MOON RISING

IT'S A BOY! OUR QUEEN HAS A NEW PRINCE!

CREATURE OF SHADOW,

OELLIS!

YES!

NOW IS THE APPOINTED TIME!

YOU MUST PERFORM THE CHRISTENING CEREMONY FOR THE PRINCE!

LUNAFREA...

WHAT IS IT? HAS THE BIRTH ALREADY HAPENED?

FATHER!

YES! YOU CAN HEAR VOICES SHOUTING EVERYWHERE!

ITS LIGHT IS SAID TO WARD OFF CREATURES OF EVIL.

IT'S CALLED THE RING OF LIGHT.

THIS IS...?

ALRIGHT BUT, BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE CASTLE, I WANT YOU TO HAVE THIS.

...THEN LET'S DO THIS! WHERE WILL TARKIN BE WAITING AGAIN?

BUT, I THINK THAT IT WOULD SUIT A LADY LIKE YOU BETTER.

TARKIN GAVE ME THIS A LONG TIME AGO BACK WHEN I WAS JUST A LOWLY SOLDIER.

...LET'S GO, THEN!

ALRIGHT!

HE'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN.

HE'S GOING TO ESCORT YOU TO A SANDSHIP, WHICH YOU CAN USE TO GET TO SAFETY.

ズカ
ズカ
ズカ

THE PRINCE IS TO BE TAKEN WITH US. THOSE ARE THE KING'S ORDERS SO GET OUT OF OUR WAY!

KYAA!

WHAT? YOU'RE DOING WHAT?! BUT THE PRINCE WAS ONLY JUST NOW BORN!

GIVE ME THAT!

AAH!

PLEASE! DON'T DO THIS!

PLEASE! WAIT! GIVE ME MY CHILD BACK!

AAH, PLEASE DON'T OVEREXERT YOURSELF!

WAAH!

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

GOOD, GOOD... THEN WE'LL BEGIN THE CHRISTENING CEREMONY

YOU AREN'T!? YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY GIVE OUR CHILD THAT NAME...!

MY LORD!

YOU NEED TO SHUT YOUR ANNOYING MOUTH! WITH THAT I BESTOW UPON THIS PRINCE, HE SHALL BECOME A DEMONIC KING WITH THE POWER TO CONQUER THE WORLD!

EH? SO THE LITTLE CRYING QUEEN WON'T FORGIVE ME? THEN MAYBE YOU'LL SHUT UP ONCE ALL OF THESE OTHER HARPIES ARE SILENCED!

SUCH A THING....SUCH A HORRIBLE THING, I WON'T FORGIVE!

KYAAA!

FU-
HA
HA
HA
HA!

I'VE GOT HER!

YOU... HOW COULD YOU?!

!!

VOLGOY... LUNA! ARUS... PLEASE SAVE MY DEAR ARUS!

LADY ROSA!!

NO! I REFUSE TO SHUT UP! THAT CHILD'S NAME IS ARUS!

SHUT UP! THAT IS NOT TO BE HIS NAME!

ARUS!!!
ARUS!
ARUS!!

STAY WITH KING CARMEN IN THE OTHER WORLD!
IF YOU WON'T STAY QUIET, YOU CAN JUST
HMPH!
SNIFF

LIMBO!

LADY ROSA... SHE DISSAPPEARED!

SO THEN... YOU REALLY ARE NOTHING MORE THATN A DEMON WITH THE APPERANCE OF OUR KING!

チャッ!!

!!

HEH

GRAAA!!

FOR A DEMON YOU'RE PRETTY SLOW!

レ!!イ!!ッ

OHH!

THE KNIGHTS TOO... IMPOSSIBLE!

WHAT IN THE...

FATHER!!

BAM

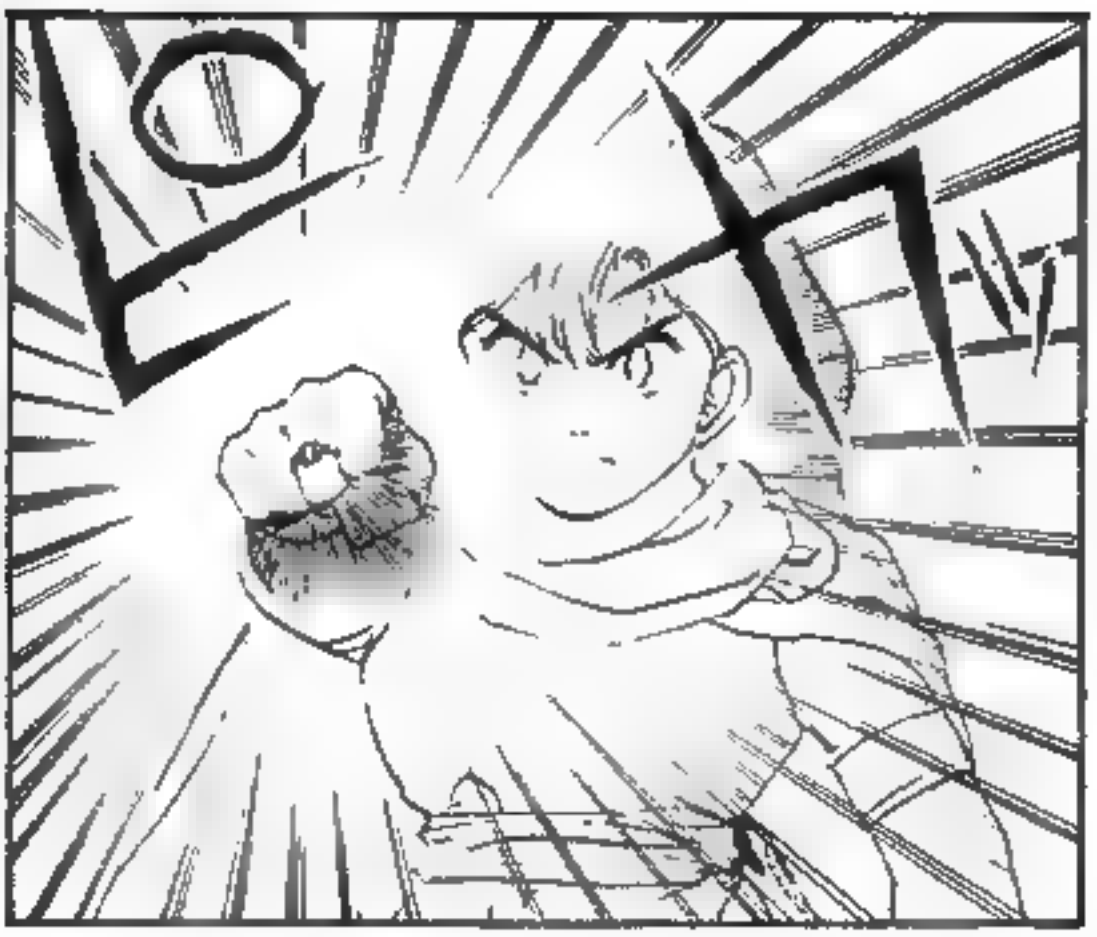
!

LU--
LUNAFREA!
THE RING!
USE IT!

カワ!!

YOU
MONSTER!
TAKE THIS
HOLY LIGHT!

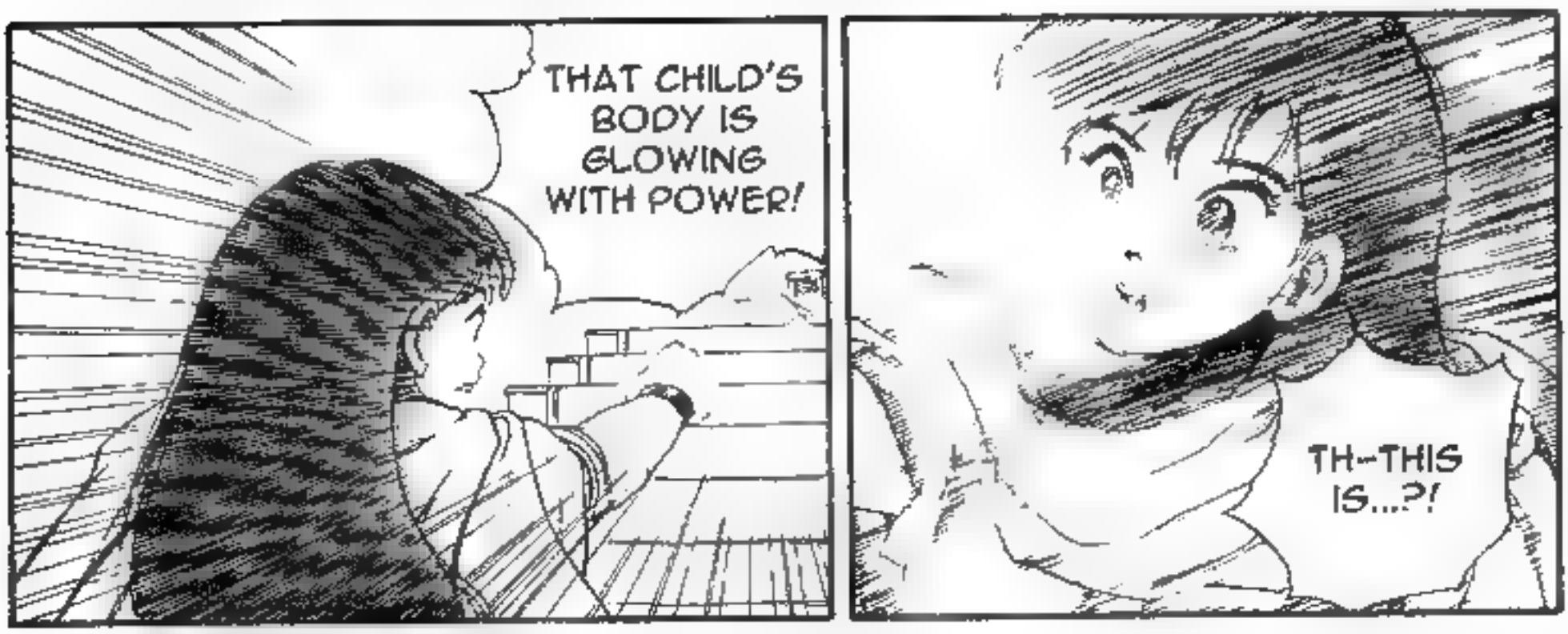
U-GUH



FUHAHAHAHA!
YOU REALLY THINK
SUCH A TOY
COULD HARM ME
THE GREAT
DELUS?

I'LL TEAR
YOU
APART
LIKE
PAPER!

WHAT!


THAT CHILD'S BODY IS GLOWING WITH POWER!
TH-THIS IS...?!

ドドド

HAAA AAA!!

QUICKLY!... YOU MUST TAKE THE PRINCE NOW....

JUST NOW, THAT RING REACTED TO THE POWER OF THIS CHILD....

IT'S JUST WHAT I WOULD EXPECT OF THE HEIR TO THE HERO'S BLOOD!

//O//

...I... CAN'T GO ANY FURTHER... I'M COUNTING ON YOU TO TAKE THE PRINCE TO WHERE TARKIN AWAITS YOU...

THE PRINCE IS SAFE! SO...

FATHER! HANG IN THERE!

UGHARGH! MY MINIONS

DONT' LET THEM GET AWAY !!

!

QUICKLY! LUNAFREA, I'LL COVER YOUR ESCAPE, SO MAKE A BREAK FOR IT WHEN I GIVE THE WORD!

UGH..

GRAAA!

uoooooo!

TAKE THAT!

HURTS

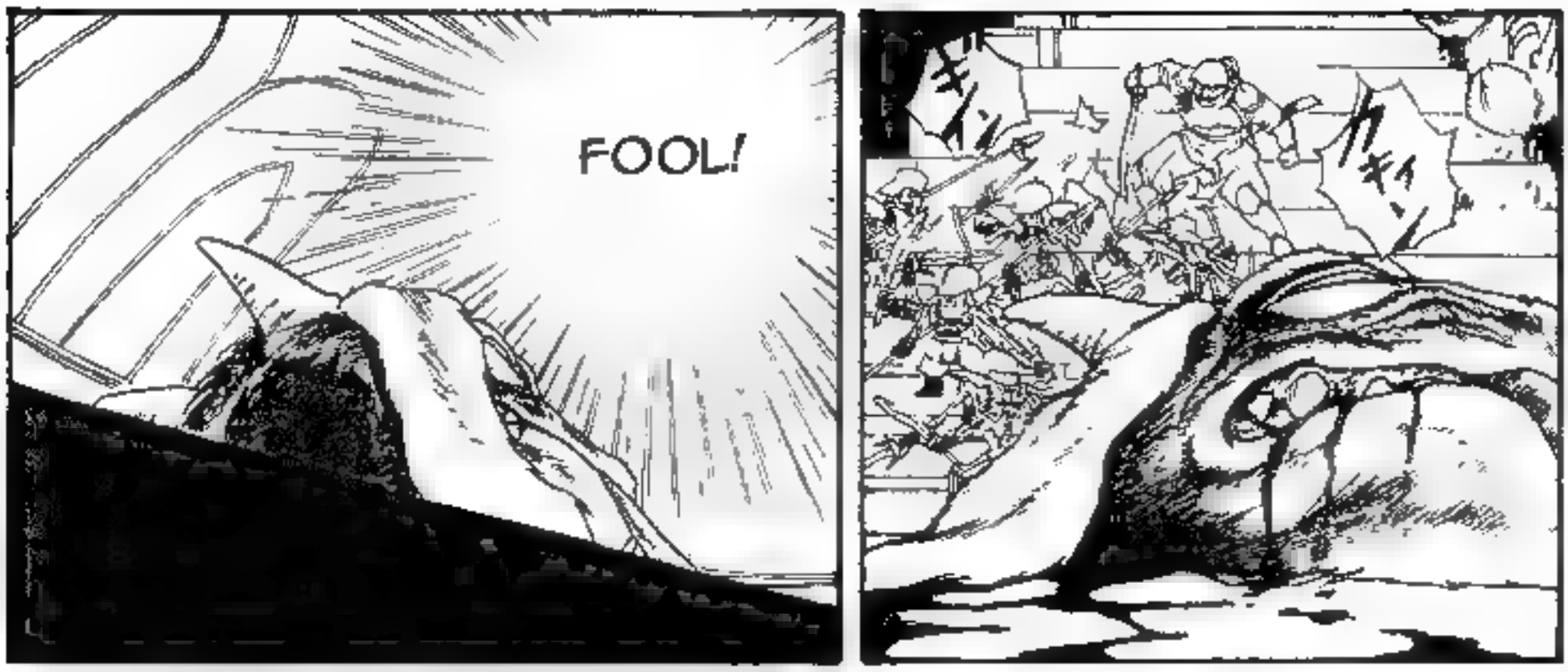
OW

PAIN

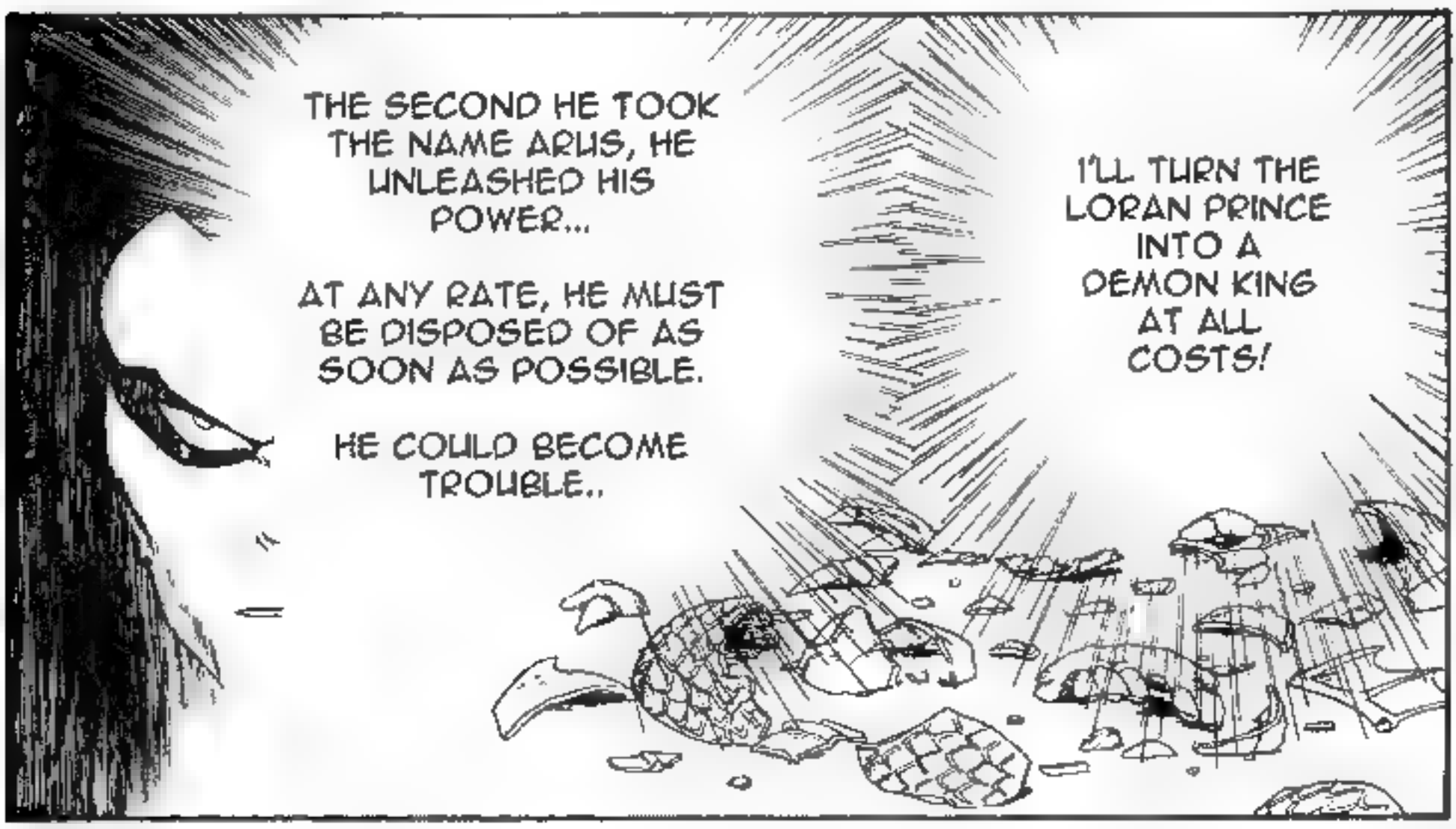
AAAAH!!

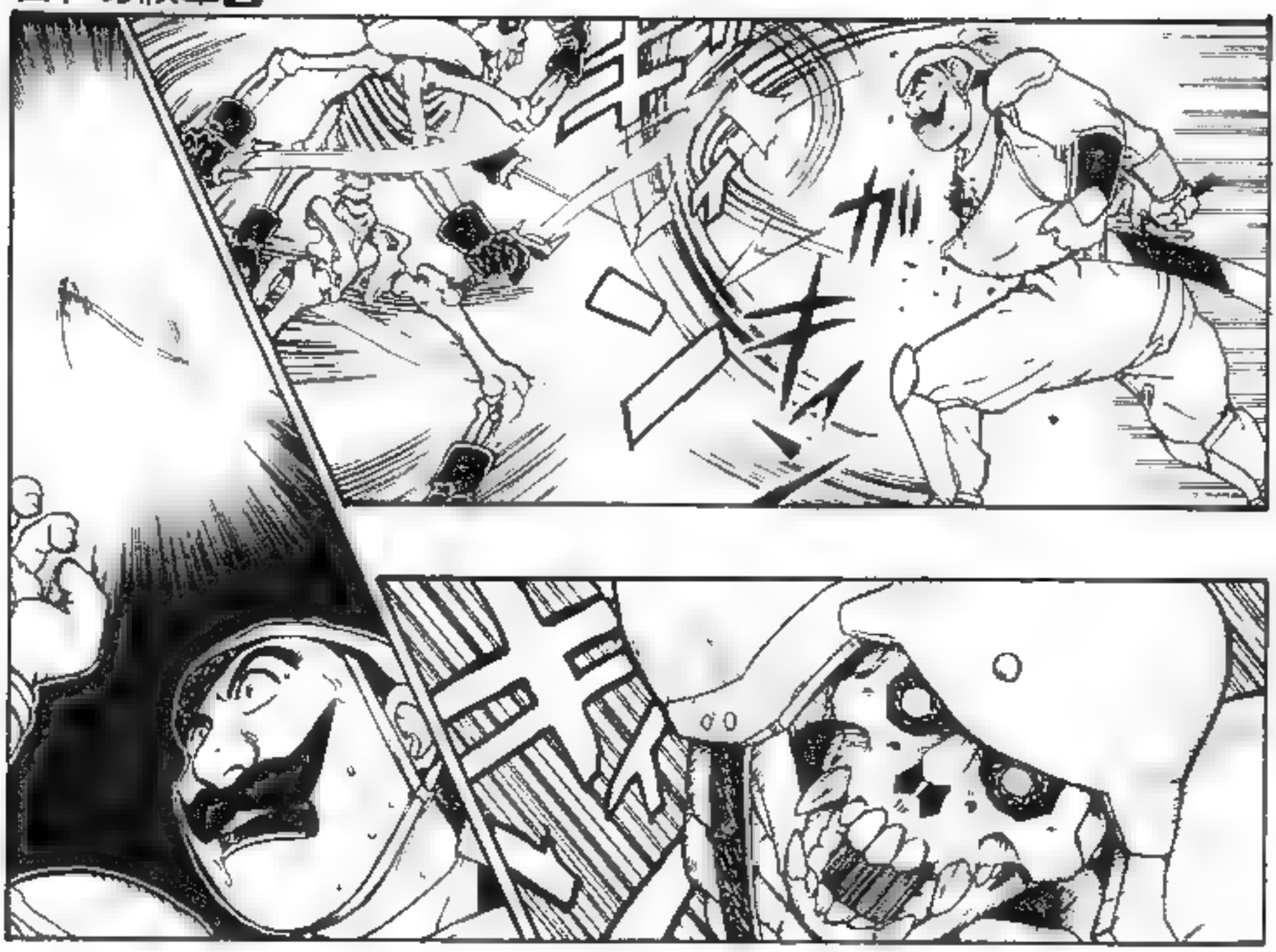
NOW, LUNAFREA!

RUN FOR IT!!


FOOL!

IT WAS A MISTAKE, SENDING A BRAIN-LESS IDIOT LIKE YOU...
STILL, EVEN IF WE FAIL WITH CARMEN, LORAN KINGDOM IS STILL LEFT.


THE SECOND HE TOOK THE NAME ARIS, HE UNLEASHED HIS POWER...
AT ANY RATE, HE MUST BE DISPOSED OF AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
HE COULD BECOME TROUBLE..
I'LL TURN THE LORAN PRINCE INTO A DEMON KING AT ALL COSTS!


カリ
ドカ

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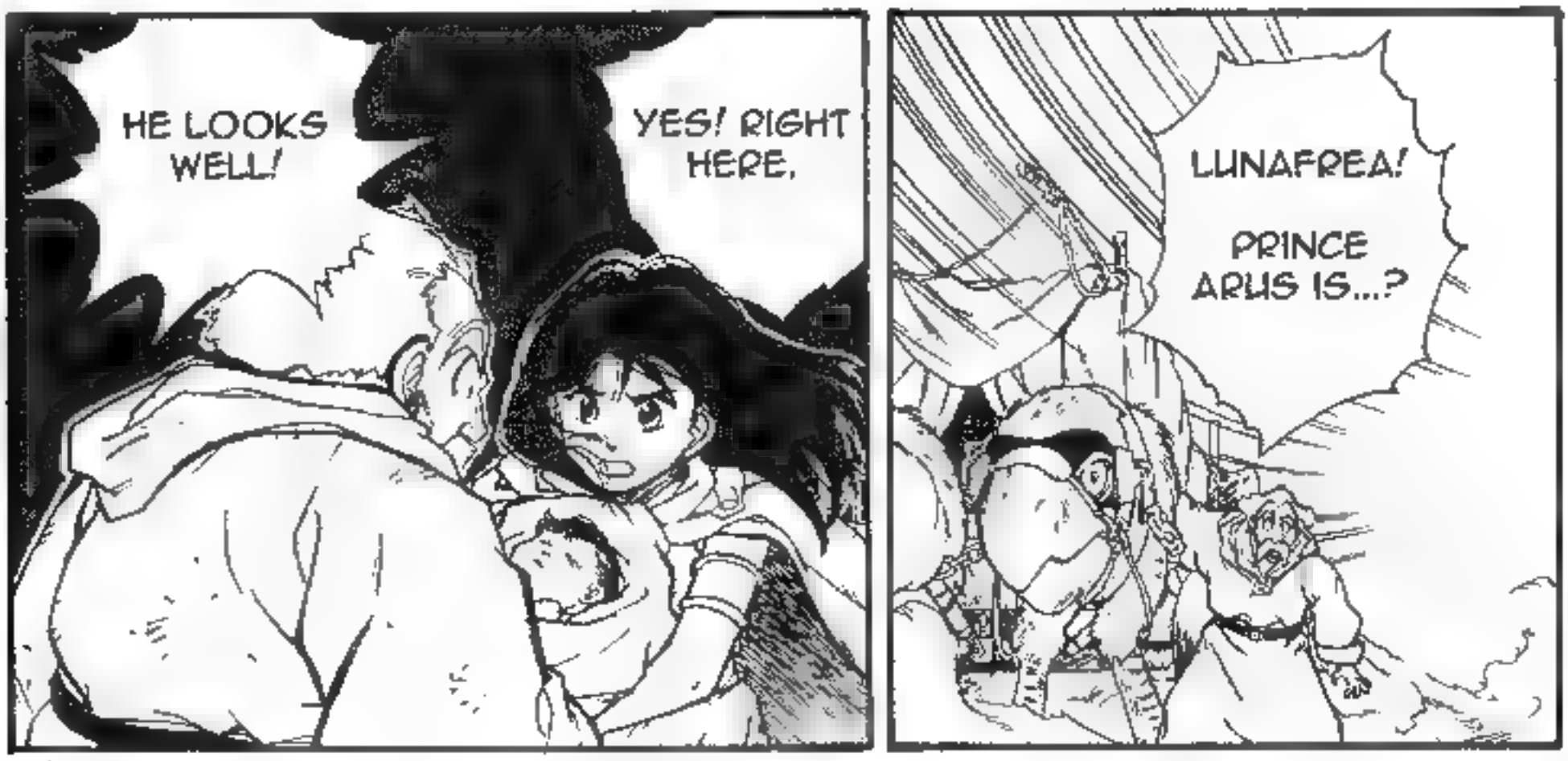
THERE SHE IS! SHE'S GETTING AWAY!

LUNAFREA... I LEAVE THE PRINCE... NO, ARUS...

TO YOU...

COUGH

ヒュオオオオ
ゴオオ


HE LOOKS WELL!
YES! RIGHT HERE.
LUNAFREA!
PRINCE ARUS IS...?

MY FATHER...

MY FATHER COULDN'T MAKE IT.

AND, SIR VOLGOY...?

THEY'RE OVER THERE!

I'VE SPOTTED THEM!!

IS THAT SO...

ドン

ドン

ドン

ゴゴゴゴ
ヒュン
ゴオオオオ
カラカラカラ
ヤアアア

FATHER...

TARKIN...

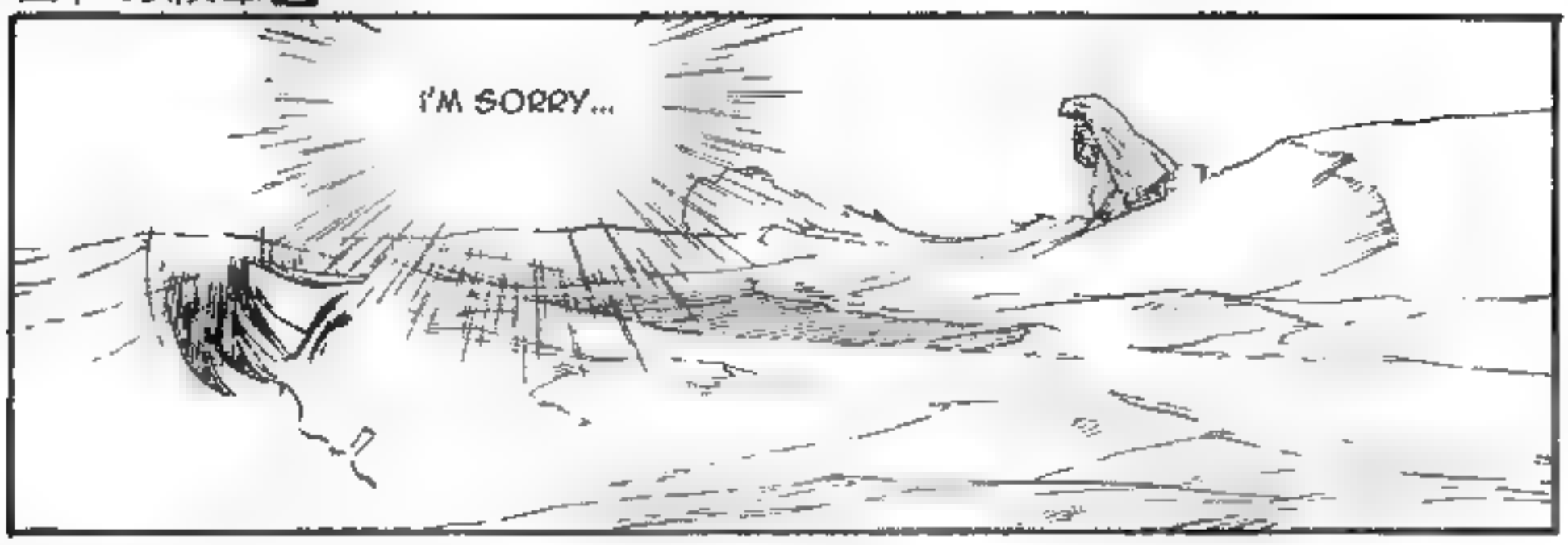
I... CAN'T DO THIS MUCH LONGER

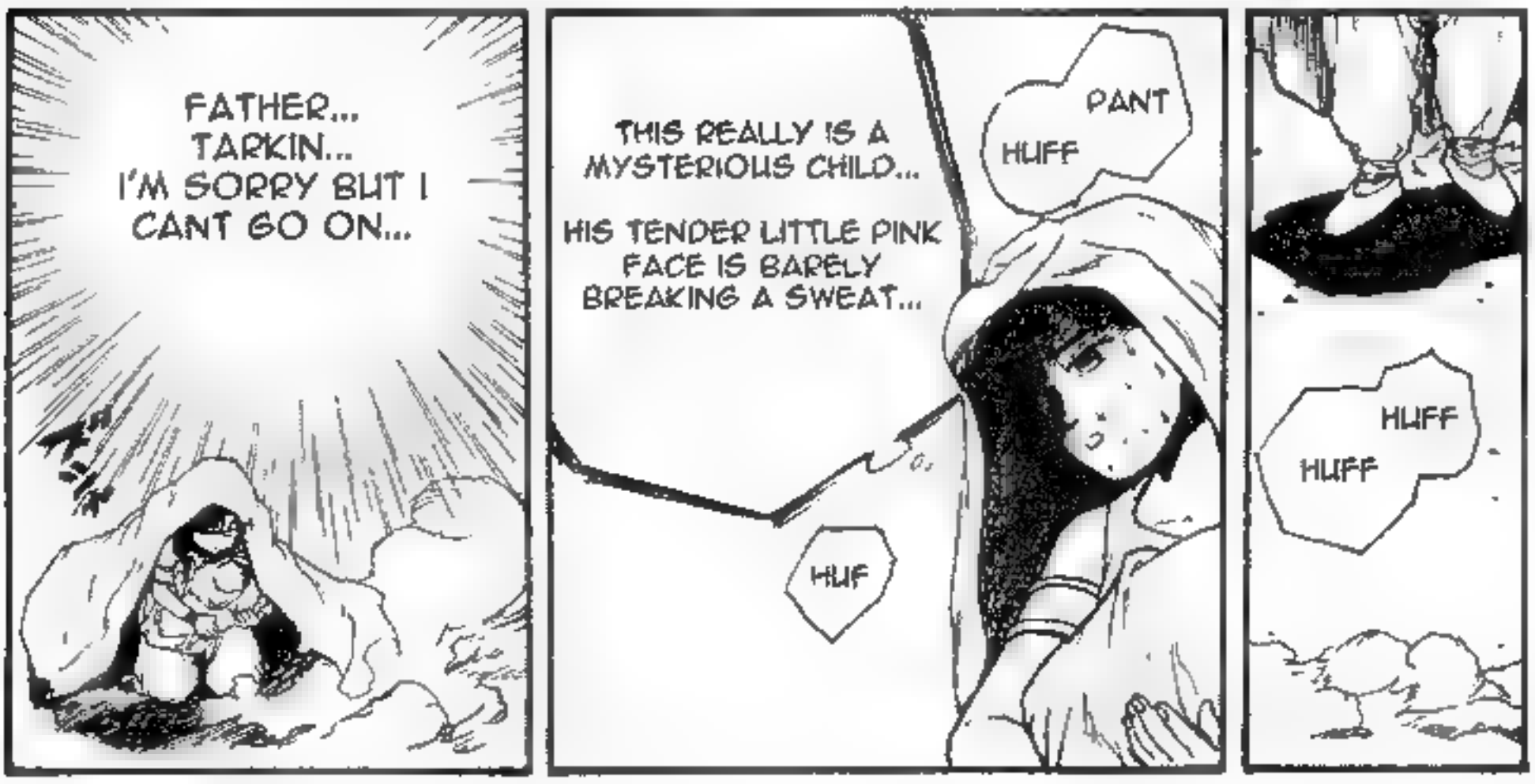
I'LL MAKE SURE TO COME BACK!

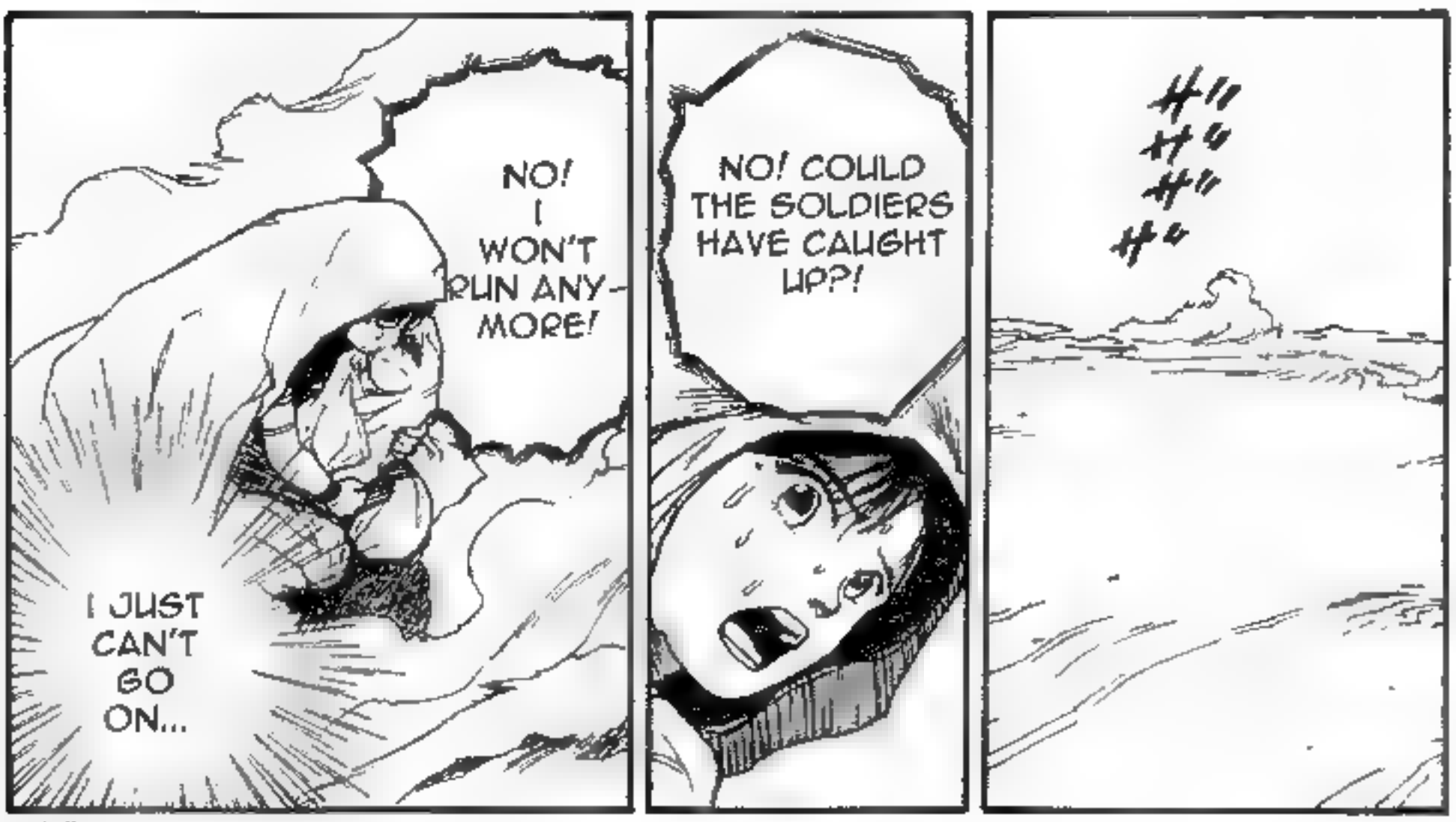
YEAH

I CAN'T GO ANY FURTHER...

PICK ME UP WHEN YOU REACH THE SHIP


I'M SORRY...


FATHER...
TARKIN...
I'M SORRY BUT I CANT GO ON...
THIS REALLY IS A MYSTERIOUS CHILD...
HIS TENDER LITTLE PINK FACE IS BARELY BREAKING A SWEAT...
PANT
HUFF
HUF
HUFF
HUFF


NO! I WON'T RUN ANY-MORE!
I JUST CAN'T GO ON...
NO! COULD THE SOLDIERS HAVE CAUGHT UP?!
HH
H
HH
H

AHOY!

FOR TARKIN'S SAKE TOO...

FOR MY FATHER... AND...

GOD, I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO ME! SO, PLEASE....

PLEASE, AT LEAST PROTECT THIS CHILD'S LIFE!

...YOU ARE...?

HONESTLY, A LADY LIKE YOU DOESN'T BELONG IN A PLACE LIKE THIS!

STILL, THAT WAS A PRETTY FOOLISH THING FOR A GIRL TO DO... YOU DON'T HAVE THE FEET TO DEAL WITH THIS HOT SAND!

I'M THE CAPTAIN OF THIS FINE SANDSHIP, THE ISIS.

YOU CAN CALL ME GIRAN.

OH, AND THIS HERE IS MY SON, KIRA.

WELL, YOU SEEM ABOUT LIKE THE OLD MAN DESCRIBED YOU...

OH, WE PICKED UP SOME WEIRD OLD MAN ON THE WAY HERE TOO.

!

GRAMPA! GRAMPA!

IT'S ME!
IT'S ME!

AHOOYY!

TARKIN!

SNIFF

MADE IT!

HEHEH

SAVED BY THE SAND SAILORS, GIRAN AND HIS SON, KIRA; TARKIN, LUNAFREA, AND ARUS HEAD TO BAHARATA, TO STAY AT A HERMIT'S HIDEAWAY....
THERE, THEY LIVE IN PEACE FOR 10 SHORT YEARS.

THIS IS WHERE OUR LEGEND TRULY BEGINS...

EIEN NO MANGA

HTTP://WWW.E-N-M.NET
#ENM@IRC.IRCHIGHWAY.NET

DRAGON QUEST: EMBLEM OF ROTO
VOLUME 1 CHAPTER 02

RAW PROVIDER: STARFISHER

SCANNER: LEWSTHERIN

TRANSLATOR: CHRISTINA ROSE & A SECRETIVE NEKO

EDITORS: SUPER SECRETIVE EDITOR(S) & A SECRETIVE NEKO

PROOFREADER: ALPHANEKO, KATSUNEKO, & STARFISHER

YA-
HOOO!

WAA— aaaaa!

HYAAAAAAA!

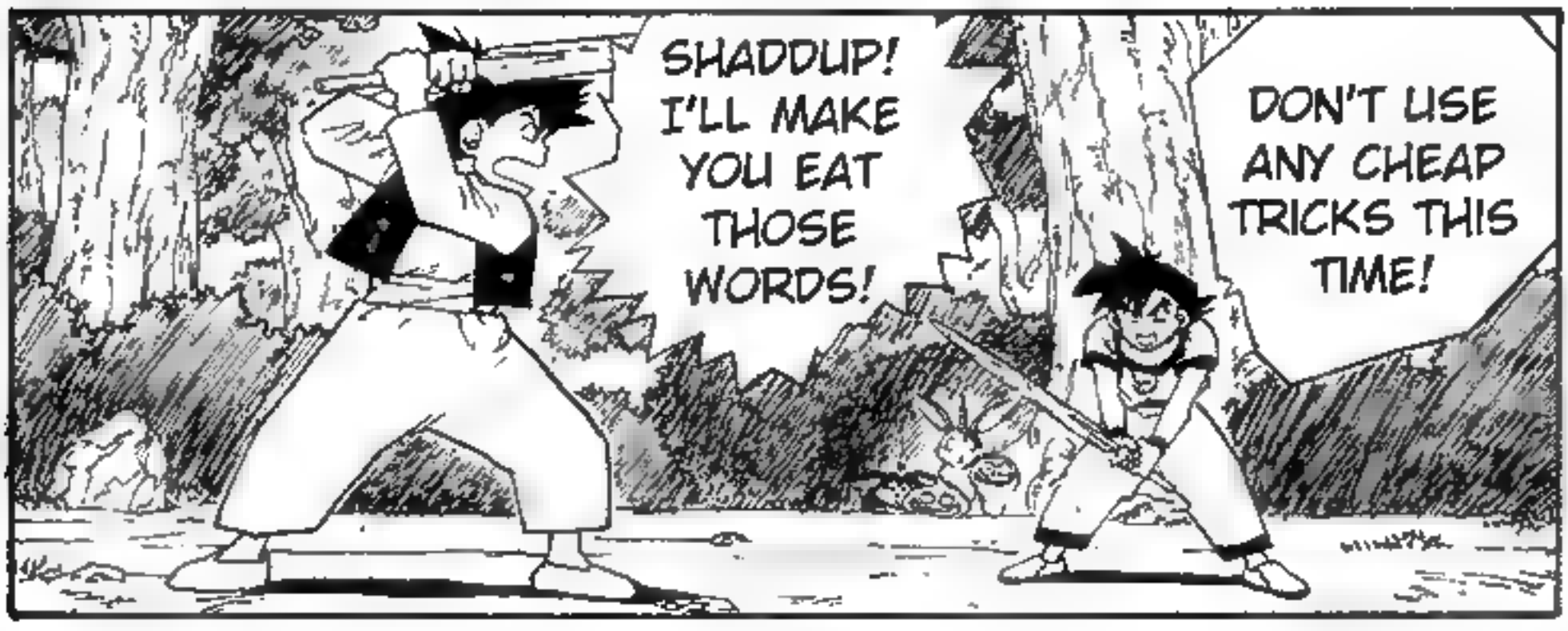
YAA— Haaaaa!

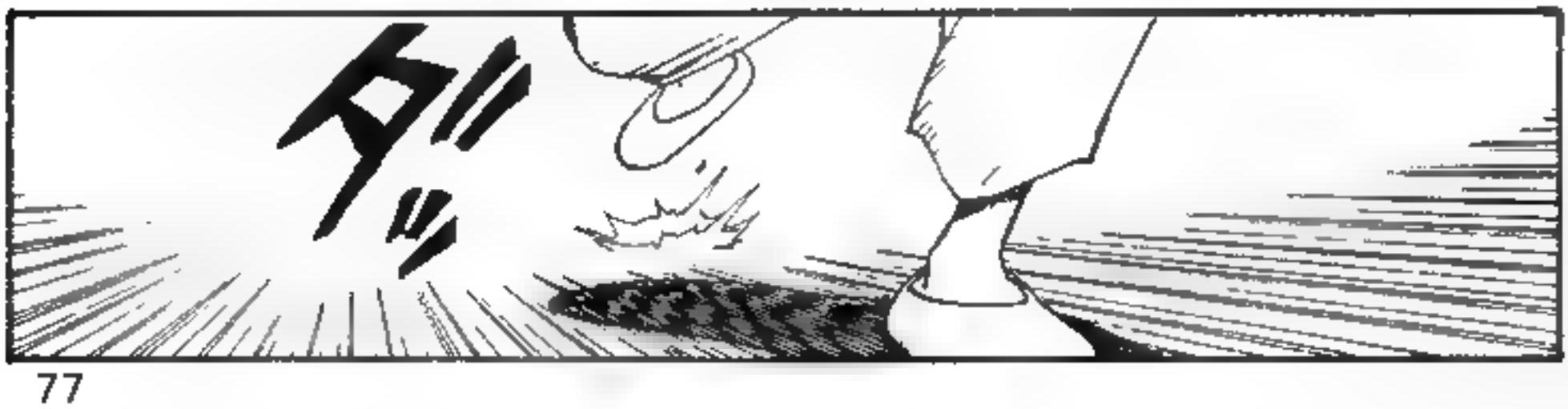
I'LL GET THERE FIRST!

NO WAY, I WILL

LEVEL:2 (レベル)
TRIUMPH OF FRIENDSHIP

ヤリッ


SHADDUP! I'LL MAKE YOU EAT THOSE WORDS!
DON'T USE ANY CHEAP TRICKS THIS TIME!



ヒュ
ヒュ
UWAA!
ヒュ
ヒュ

!

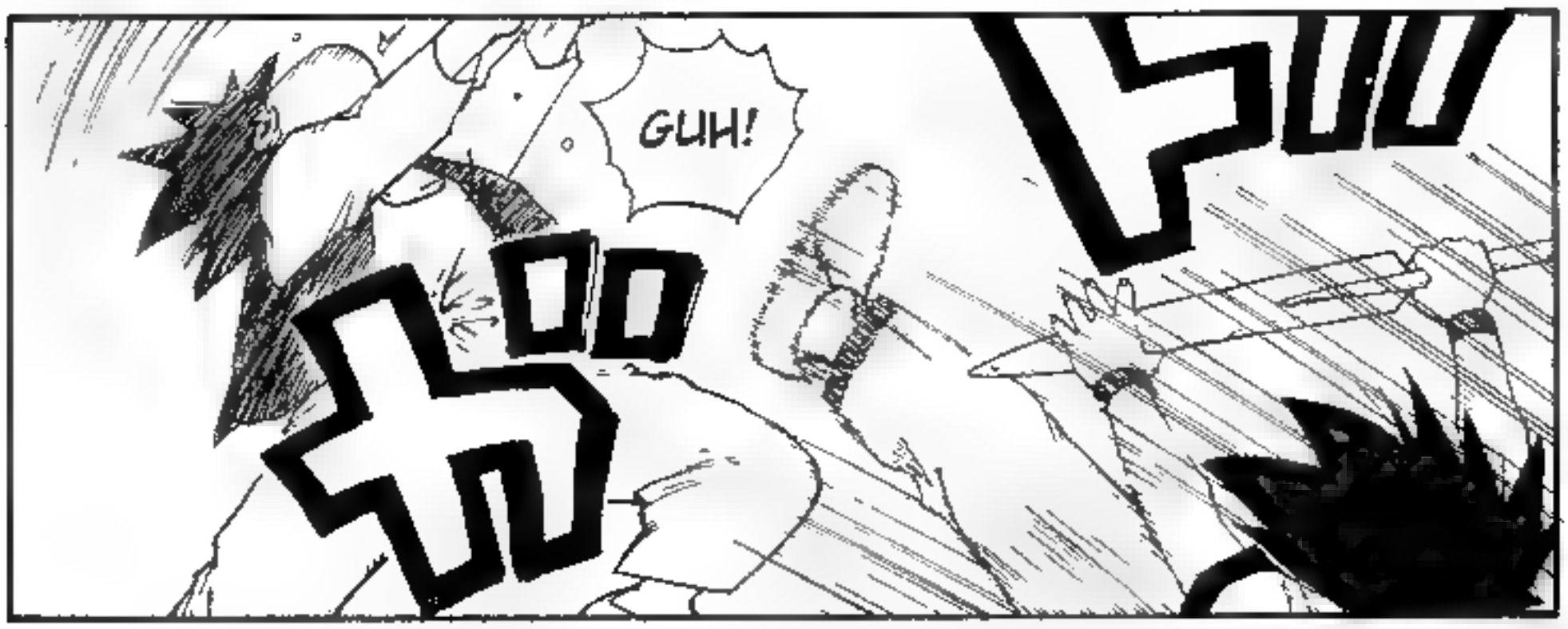
HERE I COME!

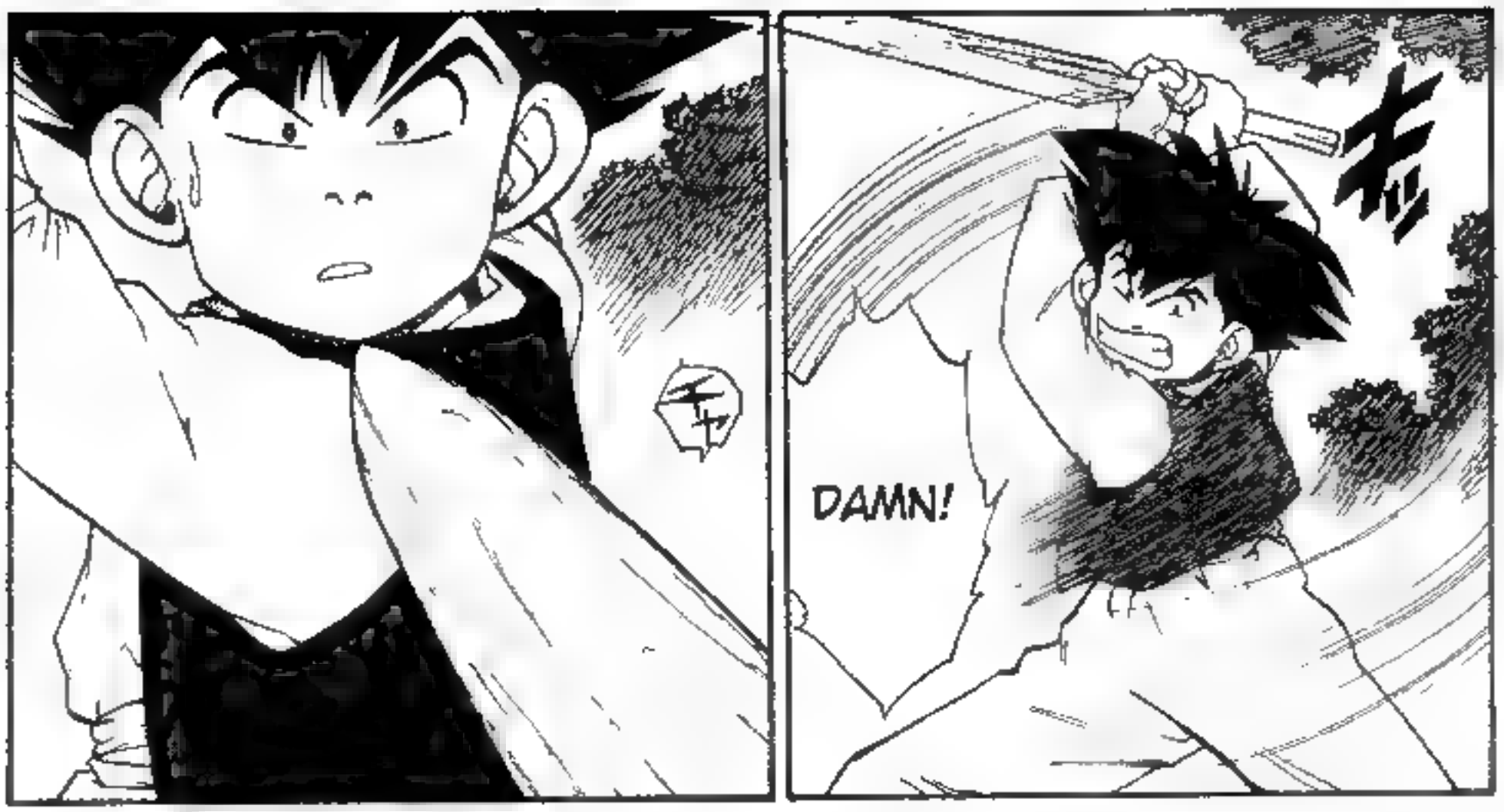
WAAARGH!
ゴロゴロゴロ
ゴロゴロゴロ

HAYAAA!
!

OOWWW!

AAGHA!


GUH!
DO
DO
DO


DAMN!

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!

LUNAFREA!

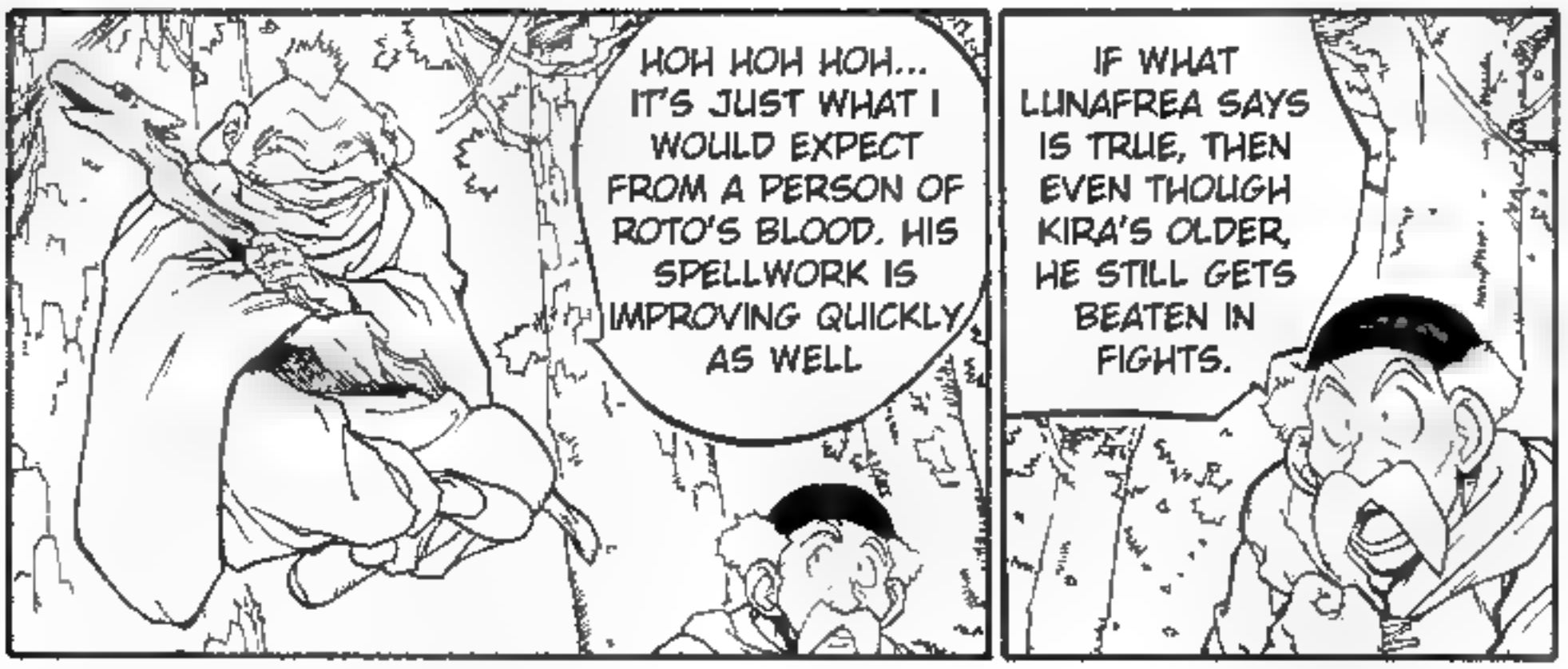
ARUS, YOU REALLY NEED TO WORK ON YOUR DEFENSE. KIRA, YOUR KICKS ARE FAR TOO SLOPPY!

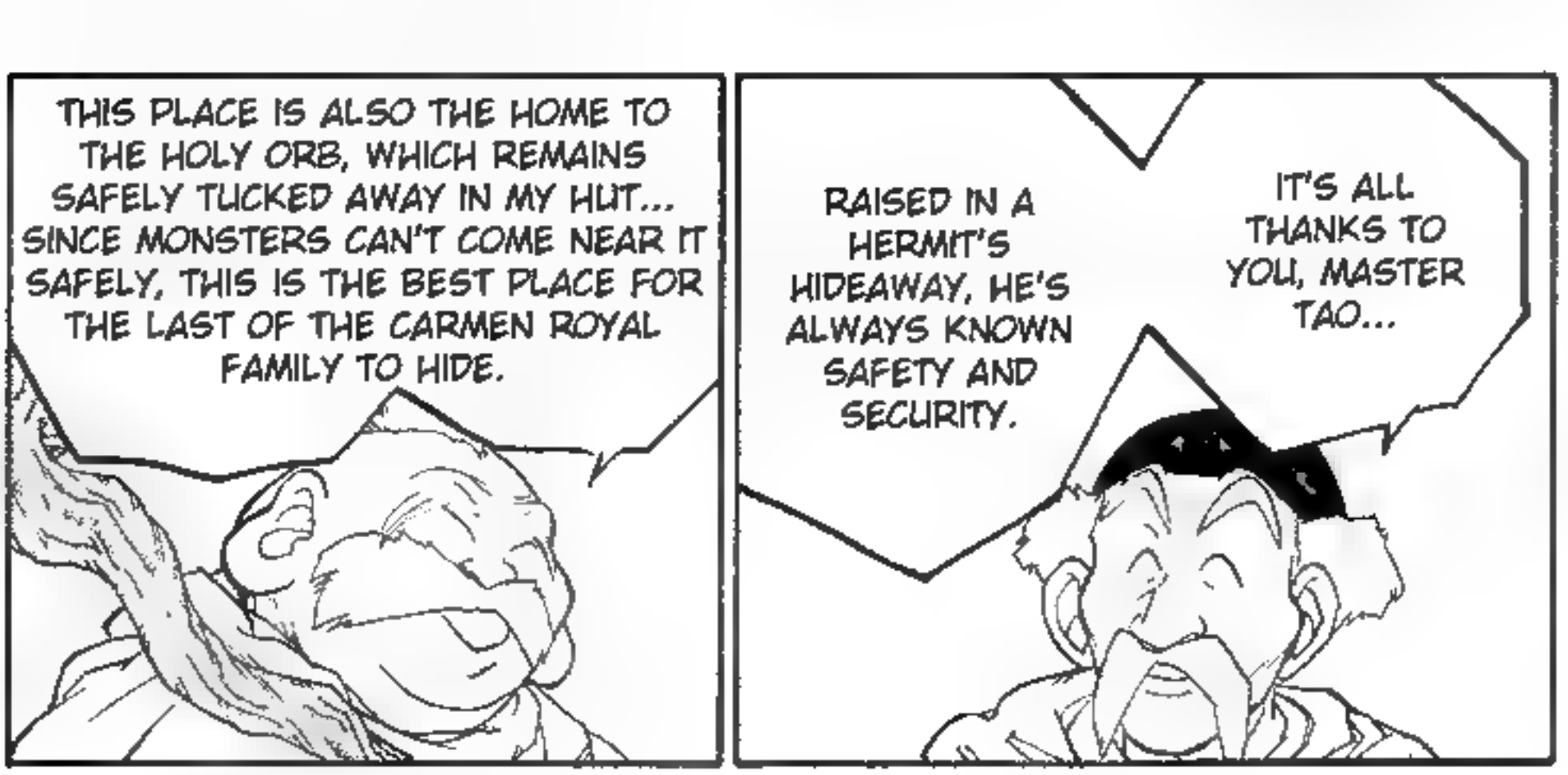
HEHEH

YOU TWO NEVER LEARN!

NOW, NOW... DON'T BE TOO HARD ON 'EM!

TARKIN! MASTER TAO!


HOH HOH HOH... IT'S JUST WHAT I WOULD EXPECT FROM A PERSON OF ROTO'S BLOOD. HIS SPELLWORK IS IMPROVING QUICKLY AS WELL
IF WHAT LUNAFREA SAYS IS TRUE, THEN EVEN THOUGH KIRA'S OLDER, HE STILL GETS BEATEN IN FIGHTS.


THIS PLACE IS ALSO THE HOME TO THE HOLY ORB, WHICH REMAINS SAFELY TUCKED AWAY IN MY HUT... SINCE MONSTERS CAN'T COME NEAR IT SAFELY, THIS IS THE BEST PLACE FOR THE LAST OF THE CARMEN ROYAL FAMILY TO HIDE.
RAISED IN A HERMIT'S HIDEAWAY, HE'S ALWAYS KNOWN SAFETY AND SECURITY.
IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU, MASTER TAO...

NOW! LET'S WORK ON OUR DEFENSE ONCE MORE!

NOW LISTEN! THE ART OF THE SWORD ISN'T JUST ABOUT FIGHTING! YOU MUST ALSO USE YOUR HEAD, AND LEARN HOW TO USE DEFENSE TO YOUR ADVANTAGE!

HUH

MOREOVER ...

FROM THE TOP! LEFT, RIGHT! LEFT, RIGHT!

TRULY! SUCH FRIENDSHIP IS A WONDERFUL BLESSING...

ARUS AND KIRA... THOSE TWO REALLY ACT LIKE BROTHERS! THEY'VE BEEN PRACTICALLY JOINED AT THE HIP SINCE THE TIME THEY WERE LITTLE BABIES!

INDEED, IT'S BEEN 10 YEARS NOW...

HAS IT ALREADY BEEN 10 YEARS...? I STILL REMEMBER VIVIDLY BACK WHEN GIRAN, KIRA'S FATHER, SAVED US.. AND HOW WE FLED FOR OUR VERY LIVES, UNTIL WE REACHED THIS PLACE...

HE SAID HE'D RETURN BY THE NEXT FULL MOON... SO WE'LL KNOW FOR CERTAIN TONIGHT.

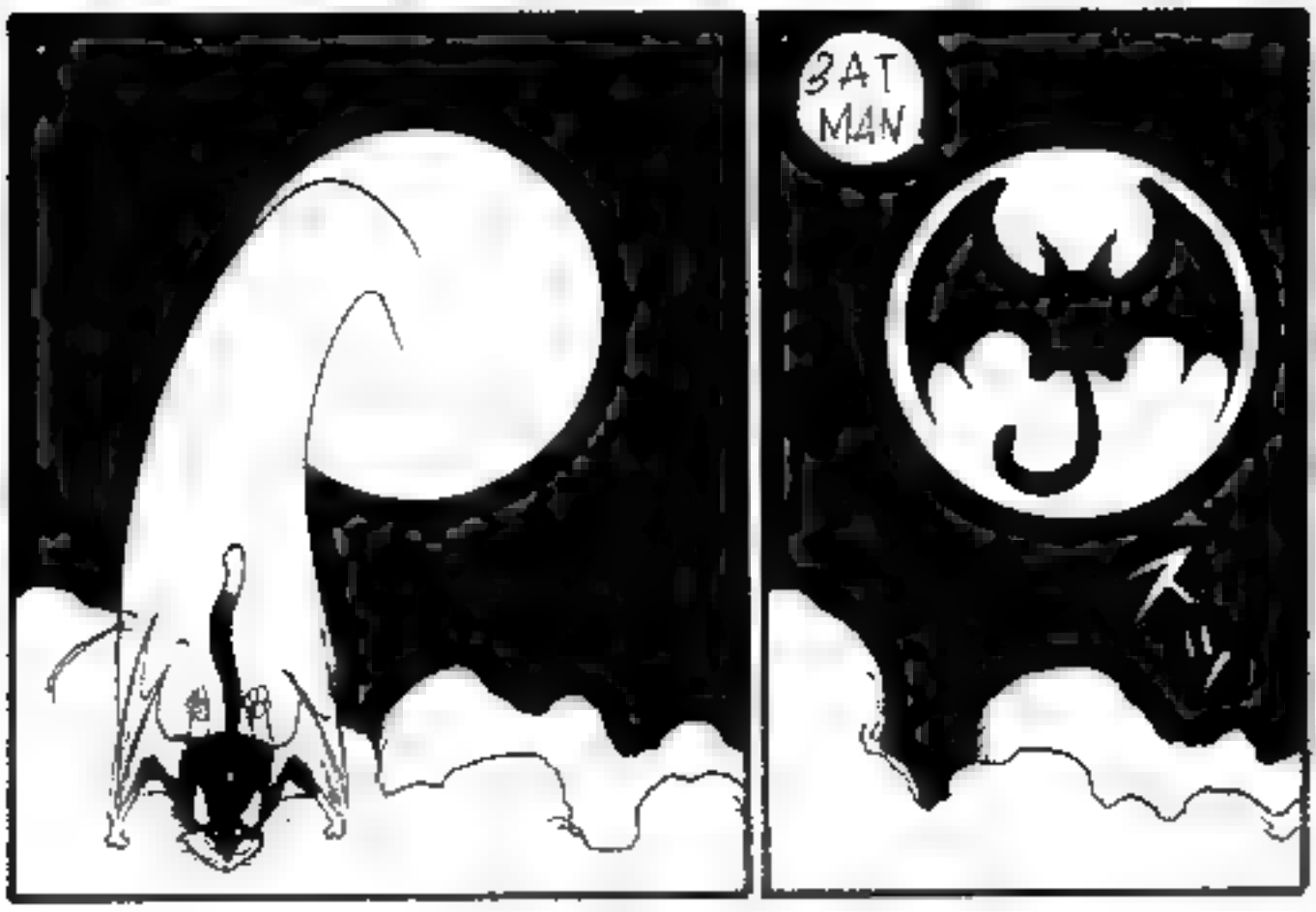
I MUST JUDGE WHETHER OR NOT THOSE RUMORS HAVE MERIT ONCE GIRAN RETURNS FROM HIS TRAVELS ABROAD...

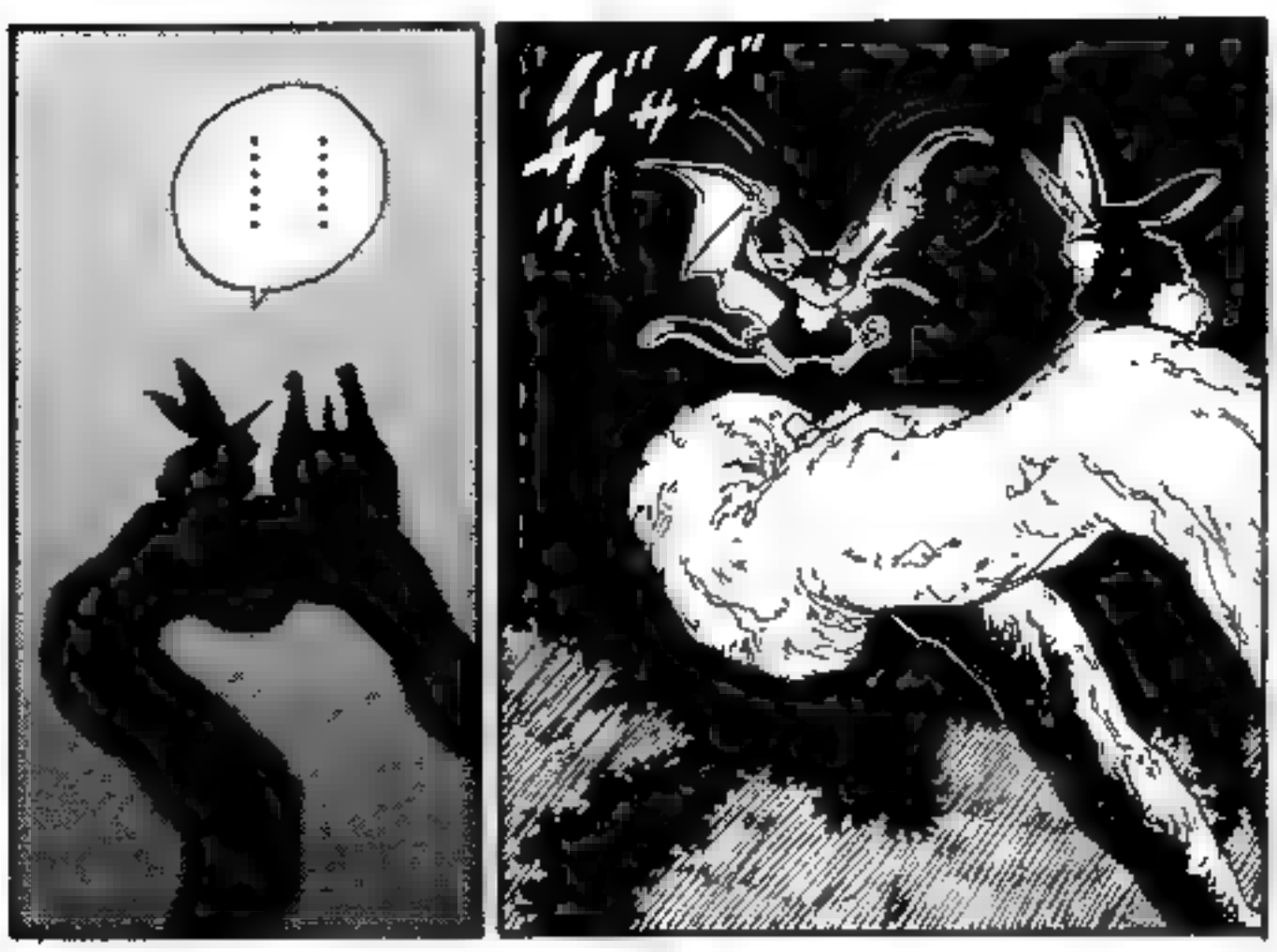
I ONLY PRAY THAT HE IS SAFE.

THEN, THERE ARE ALSO THE RUMORS THAT THE HAND OF EVIL HAS EVEN REACHED AS FAR AS THE KINGDOM OF LORAN...

SINCE THE KINGDOM OF CARMEN WAS FIRST OVERRUN BY MONSTERS, AND THE DARK INFLUENCES OF EVIL BEGAN TO SLOWLY SPREAD ACCROSS THE WORLD...

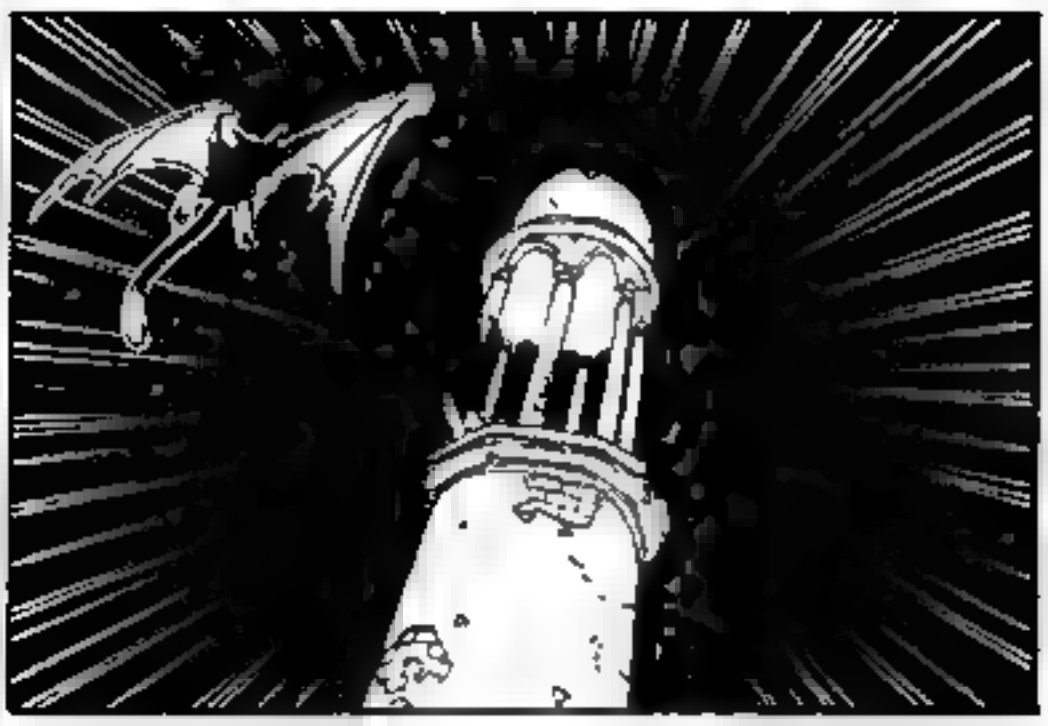
AAAA

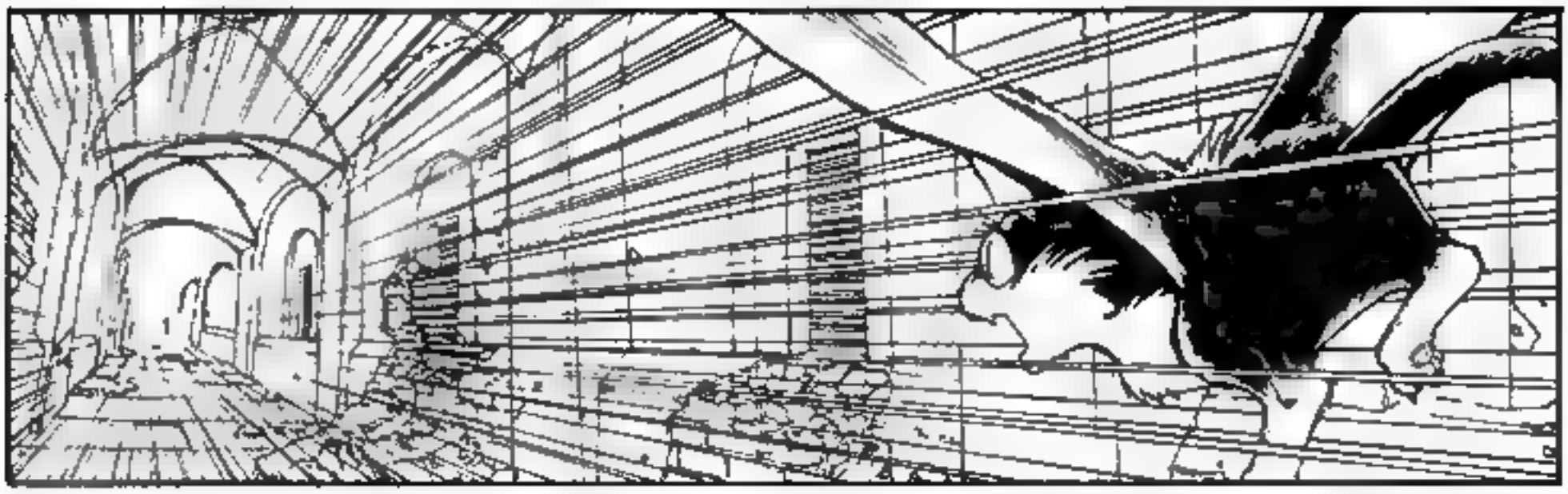

BAT
MAN


. . . .
. . . .

WHAT-NYA?!

CARMEN





GNON
DRAGON LORD
GORGONA

BEAST LORD GNON, DARK LORD GORGONA...

YOU ARE HEREBY ORDERED TO LEAD THE CONQUEST OF THE LOWER WORLD, ALEFGARD.

DEMON LORDS WHO HAVE BEEN SWORN TO ME SINCE ANCIENT DAYS...

WITH YOUR HARD WORK AND PERSERVERANCE, THE DAY OUR RACE RULES THE WORLD IS CLOSE AT HAND....

....GU HUHUHU

AND WHILE THE REST OF THE WORLD IS IN AN UPROAR, MY LEGIONS OF BEASTS WILL TAKE DOWN THE LAST STRONGHOLD OF ROTO'S LINE, LADATORM CASTLE.

LORD IMAGINE, THAT IS BUT A SIMPLE TASK. ALL WE NEED TO DO IS HAVE GORGONA SWEEP OVER ALEFGARD WITH HIS DARK LEGIONS...

WELL!

DRAGONLORD--

HOW FARES THE PRINCE OF LORAN?

VERY WELL...

NEXT, ABOUT THE OVERWORLD...

OBSERVE!

HE IS A TRUE DESCENDANT OF ROTO'S LINEAGE, BUT SINCE BIRTH, HIS HEART HAS BEEN THAT OF DARKNESS!

THERE IS NOTHING FOR LORD IMAGINE TO CONCERN HIMSELF OVER!

"JYAGAN" IS THE CURSED NAME OF THE LORAN PRINCE...

LORAN

IT'S ONLY BEEN 10 YEARS, AND HE'S ALREADY CLAIMED THE TITLE OF "DEMON KING" FOR HIS OWN!

HANDLED PROPERLY, HE COULD DOMINATE THE WORLD!

AND WHAT OF THE PRINCE OF CARMEN, WHOM DELUS SO FOOLISHLY ALLOWED TO ESCAPE HIS CLUTCHES?

INDEED...

THAT IS ACCEPTABLE.

ARUS IS HIS NAME, IS IT NOT...

IT IS LONG PAST TIME THAT HE WAS DEALT WITH.

AS LONG AS HE CONTINUES TO LIVE, HE WILL BE AN OBSTACLE TO US.

TO HUNT DOWN AND ELIMINATE ONE SINGLE CHILD SHOULD NOT BE SO DIFFICULT A TASK!

YES! WELL... THAT IS... RIGHT NOW, HE LIVES IN HIDING...

WHAT?!

HE CAN'T POSSIBLY KEEP RUNNING FOREVER!

ABSOLUTELY! EVEN AS WE SPEAK, MY VAST NETWORK OF MONSTERS IS IN PURSUIT OF HIS TRAIL.

ARUS' LOCATION!

IT HAS BEEN CONFIRMED.

I'VE JUST RECEIVED NEW INFORMATION!

!!

AS YOU WISH!

IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...

VERY WELL... THE PRINCE'S MANAGEMENT IS YOUR JOB. I WILL BE EXPECTING TO HEAR GOOD NEWS.

GUHUHU

HEY, NEAR THAT HIDEAWAY IS WHERE THE MINI-DEMON ZEBUL, AND HIS PARTNER TROLL, LIVE.

THE REAL PROBLEM IS THAT HOLY ORB.. EVEN I HAVE NO DEFENSE AGAINST ITS BARRIER.

SO, ARUS HAS BEEN LIVING WITH A HERMIT.

EXCELLENT...

THEN IT'S TIME I HAD A TALK WITH OUR THROWN-OUT WEAKLINGS!

MUNCH
MUNCH

MINI-DEMON
ZEBUL!
IS ZEBUL THERE?!

OG..

GUO!

WHAT IS IT!?!
WHERE IS
ZEBUL?!

UUGH?!

UGH, UGH!

WHAT! DRAGON LORD?!

GUO! GUO!

GUOOOO!

N- NOTHING!

AT ALL! REALLY!

ZEBUL! WHAT WERE YOU DOING?!

GUGUO

WELL, THAT'S ALRIGHT.

I HAVE A SPECIAL JOB FOR YOU TWO.

YES, YES! TO BECOME A GREATER DEMON, I'LL DO WHATEVER YOU WANT ME TO!

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

LISTEN UP! IF YOU CAN ACCOMPLISH THIS, THEN THE PATH TO BECOMING A GREATER DEMON WILL BECOME OPEN...

?.....

HMM... WHAT SHOULD WE DO...?

AH, YES, BUT, THAT PLACE IS PROTECTED BY THE HOLY ORB...

I CAN'T GET TOO CLOSE TO IT...

YOU TWO LIVE IN A CAVE NEAR A HUMAN HABITAT.

I WANT YOU TO GO THERE!

.....

HOWEVER, WORRY NOT. I HAVE A PLAN, SO LISTEN...

YES... INSIDE OF THE BARRIER THAT THE HOLY ORB GENERATES, ALL DEMONS SPELLS AND TECHNIQUES ARE NEUTRALIZED...

SINCE TROLL'S POWER IS PURELY OF A PHYSICAL NATURE, HE IS PERFECTLY SUITED TO THE TASK OF OPENING THE PATH TO THE HIDEAWAY... ONCE HE DOES THAT....

YOU MUST FIND ARUS, AND HE MUST BE NEUTRALIZED!

D... DID YOU JUST SAY THAT TROLL SHOULD GIVE HIS LIFE, JUST TO....

B.. BUT...

THEN TROLL'S GONNA DIE!

BUT, BUT, TROLL'S MY FRIEND... I HELP HIM FIND FOOD, AND HE PROTECTS ME IN RETURN!

SO...

AND WHAT OF IT...

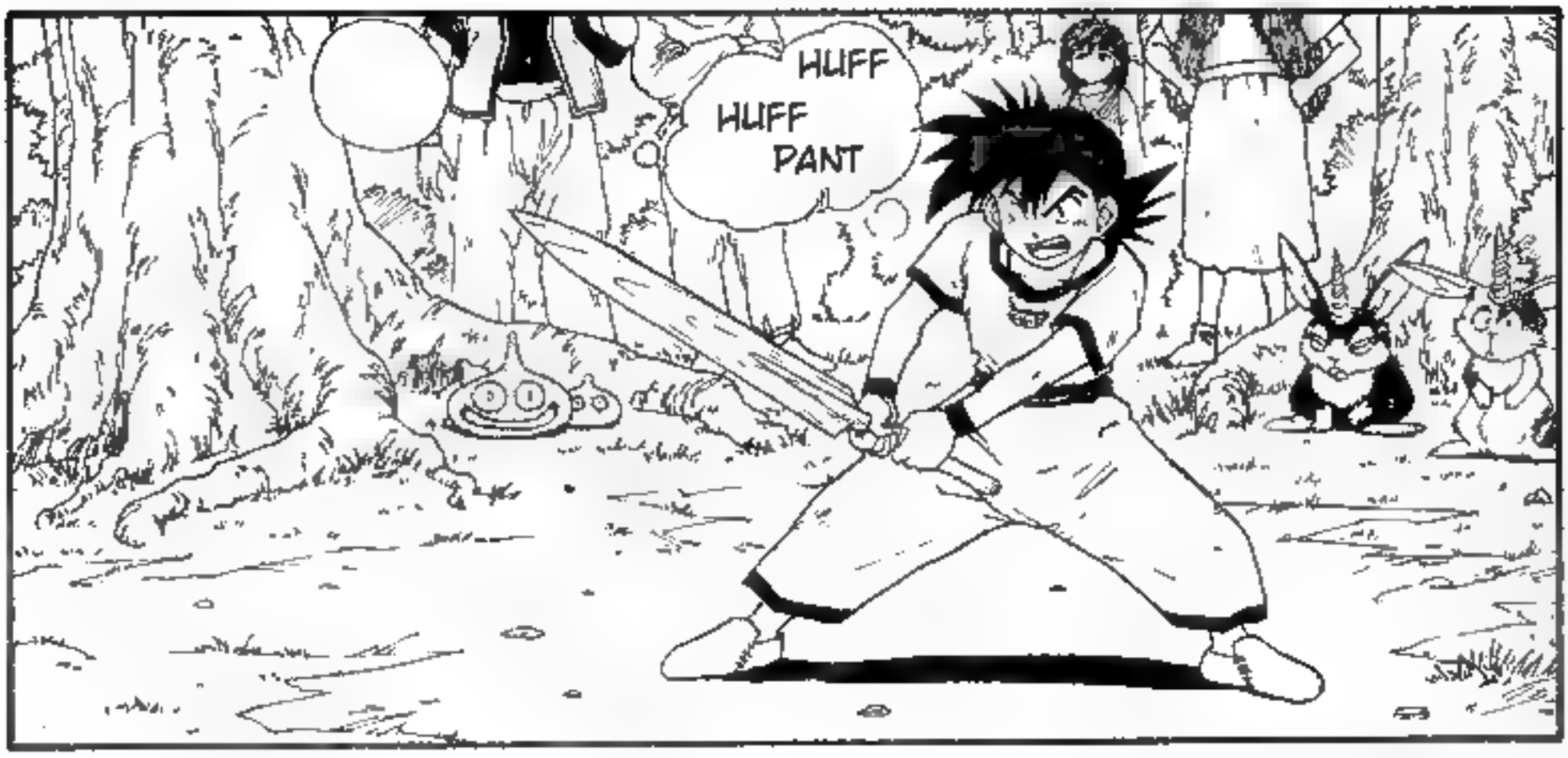
!

UH.. NO.. THAT'S NOT IT...

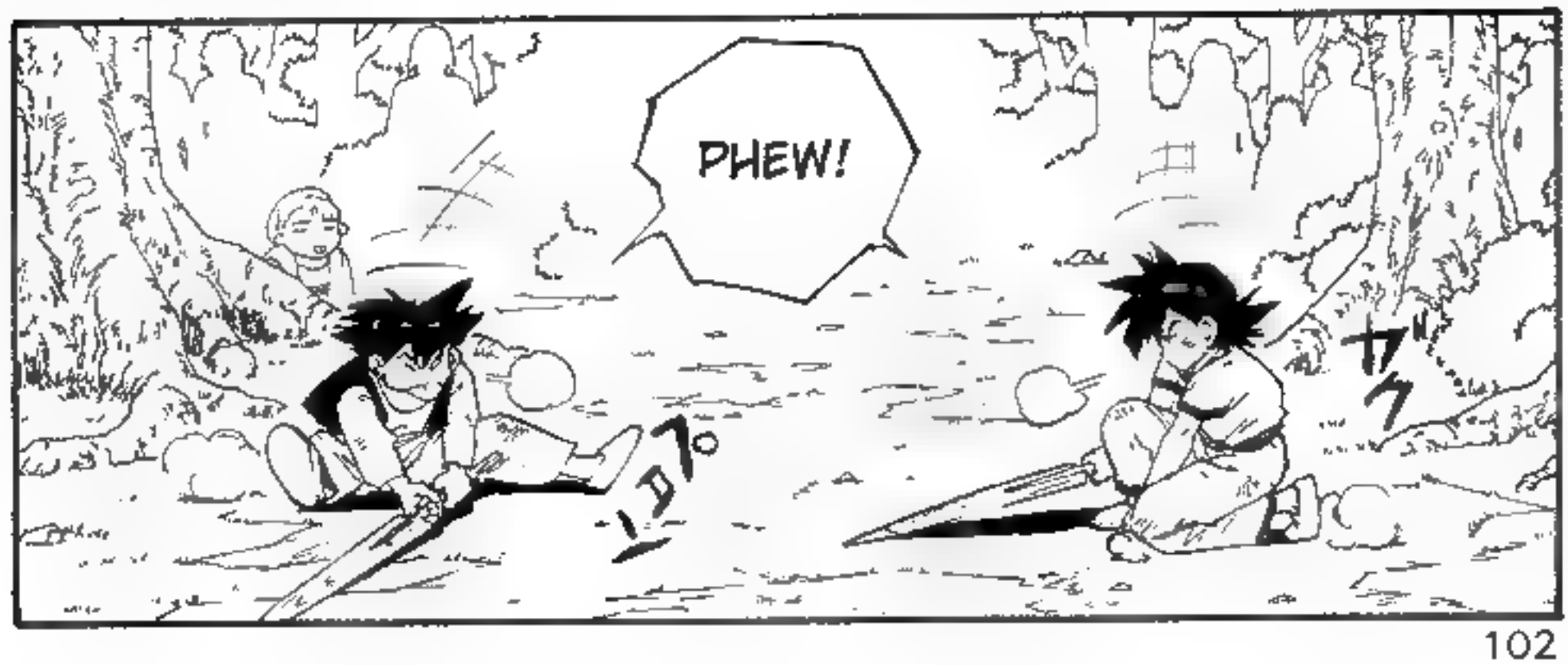
FRIEND, HMM? IS IT THAT YOU CARE MORE FOR YOUR FRIEND THAN YOU DO FOR DRAGON LORD'S ORDERS THEN?

Y-YES!

THEN YOU'LL DO AS I SAY AND SEND TROLL TO THE HIDEOUT!


HUFF
HUFF
PANT

HUFF
HUFF
PANT
HUFF..


PHEW!

ALRIGHT!

OK! IT'S NEARLY TIME TO QUIT FOR THE DAY, SO IF YOU TWO WANT TO GO A LITTLE EARLY, YOU CAN!

チ チ チ

WELL! AREN'T YOU TWO SUDDENLY ENERGETIC? MAYBE CUTTING 100 MELONS WOULD BE BETTER...

C'MON, ARUS! LET'S GO TAKE A SWIM IN THE VILLAGE SPRING!

G-GOT IT!

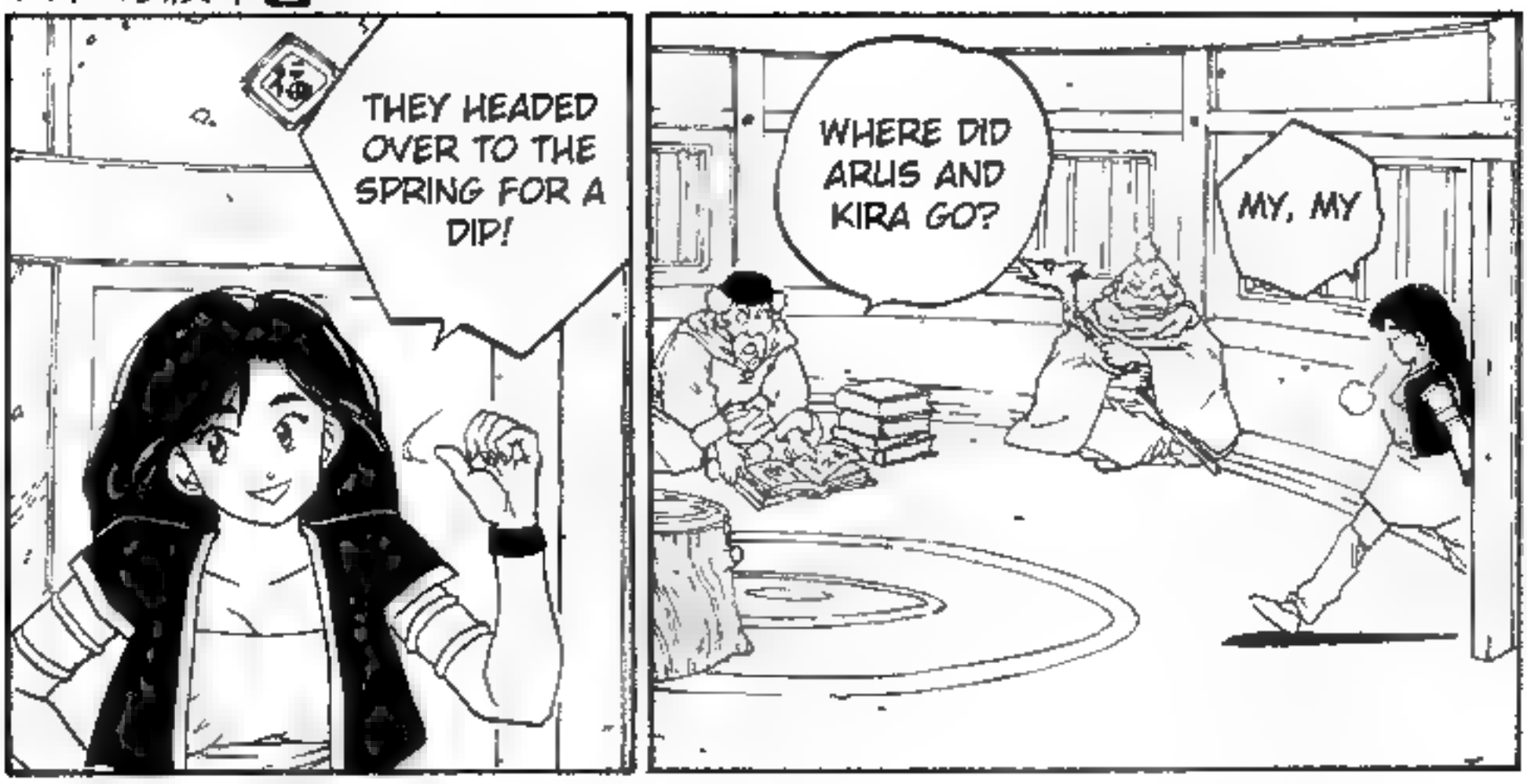
ARUS! MAKE A BREAK FOR IT!

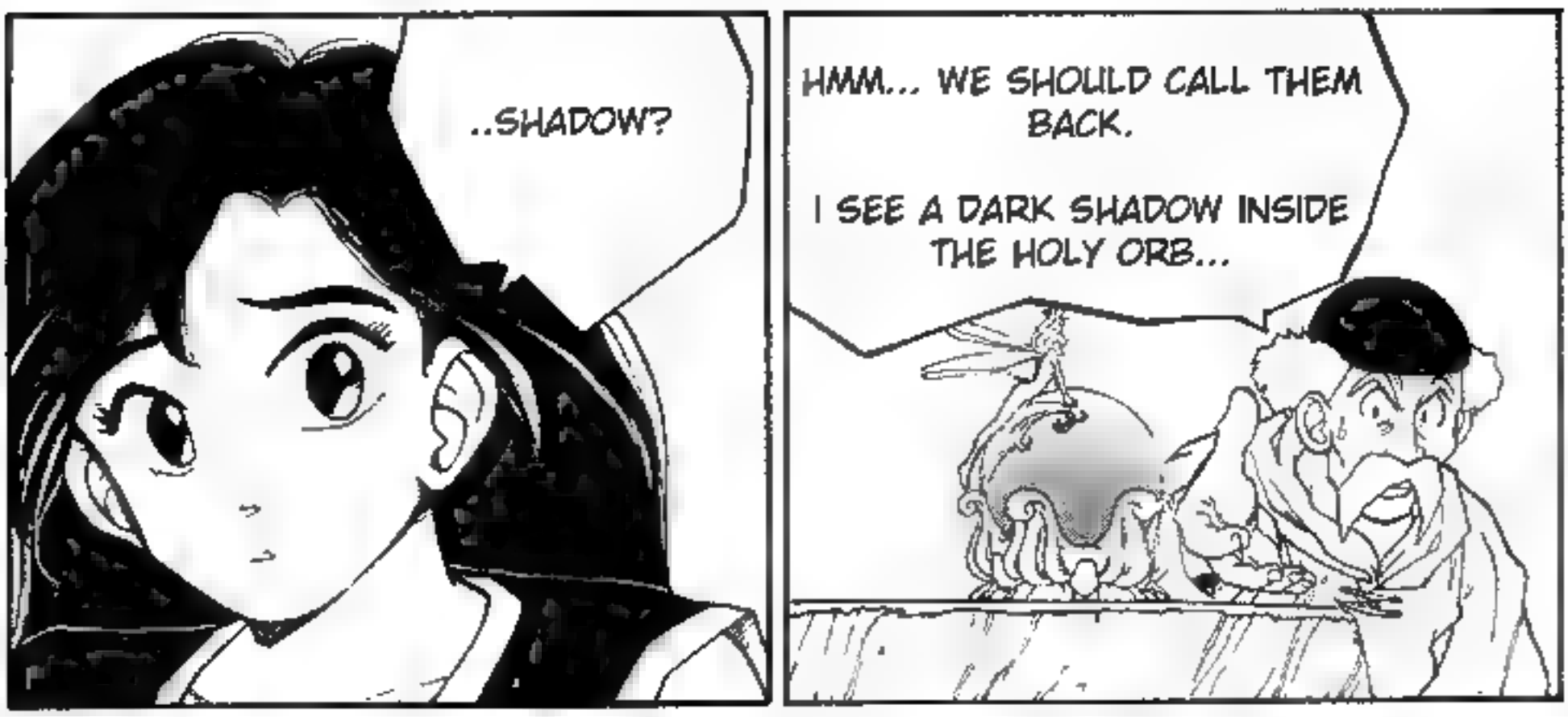
HEY, YOU TWO, MAKE SURE TO COME BACK BEFORE SUNSET!

IT'S DANGEROUS TO STAY OUTSIDE THE BARRIER AT NIIIIGHT!

HONESTLY ....

YES MA'AM!


福
THEY HEADED OVER TO THE SPRING FOR A DIP!
WHERE DID ARUS AND KIRA GO?
MY, MY


..SHADOW?
HMM... WE SHOULD CALL THEM BACK.
I SEE A DARK SHADOW INSIDE THE HOLY ORB...

WE'VE GOT SERIOUS TROUBLE, MASTER! MONSTERS HAVE COME FROM THE FOREST!

WHAT!

WH--! WHAT THE HECK?!

WAA!

KYAA!

ｻｯ!!

GO!
GET 'EM!
SMASH 'EM!

UWORGH!

NOW GET THAT BIG HOUSE!

IT'S.. A TROLL!

BUT WHY?!

TH-
THIS IS BAD!

!

KYAAA!

UWARGH!

IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE!

MASTER TAO! THE ORB!

GET THE HOLY ORB!!

ゴロゴロ

ドドド

GWAAA!

--GUH?

ドン

ALRIGHT! NOW I CAN USE ALL MY TRICKS AGAIN!

THE BARRIER WILL BE GONE!

AAAAAH!

TH.. TH.. THE ORB!

GOT IT! I'LL GO!

ARUS AND KIRA ARE THERE, SO GET THEM BACK TO THE VILLAGE...

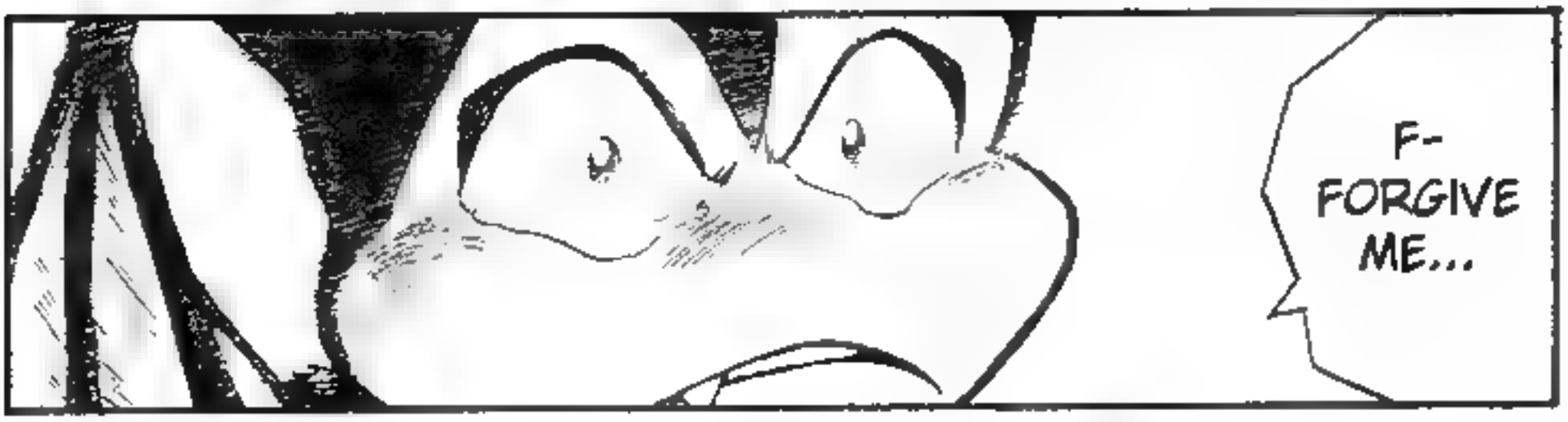
SOMEONE!

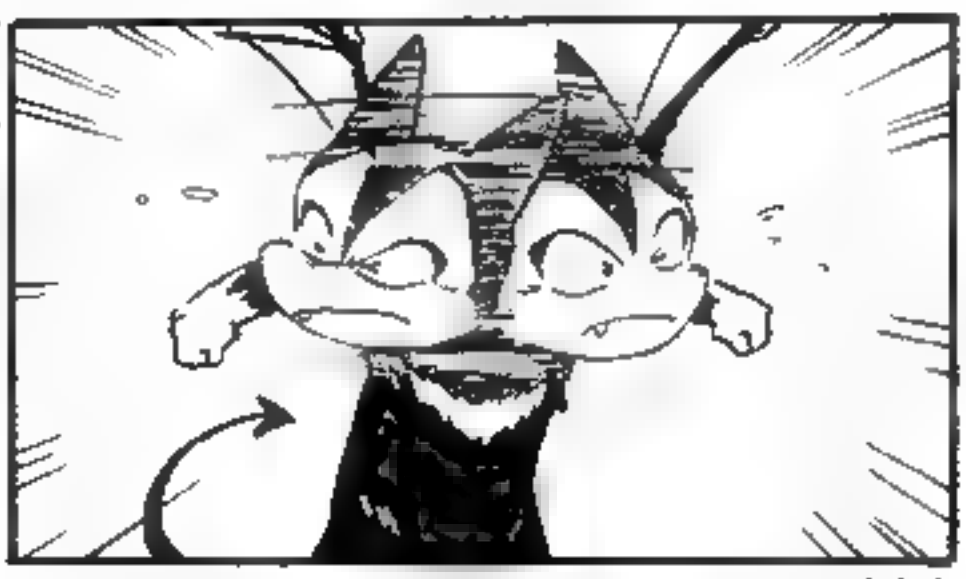
YOU MUST GO TO THE SPRING...

IT SHOULDN'T BE THAT HARD TO FIND... THEY CAN ALL CONVERGE THERE.

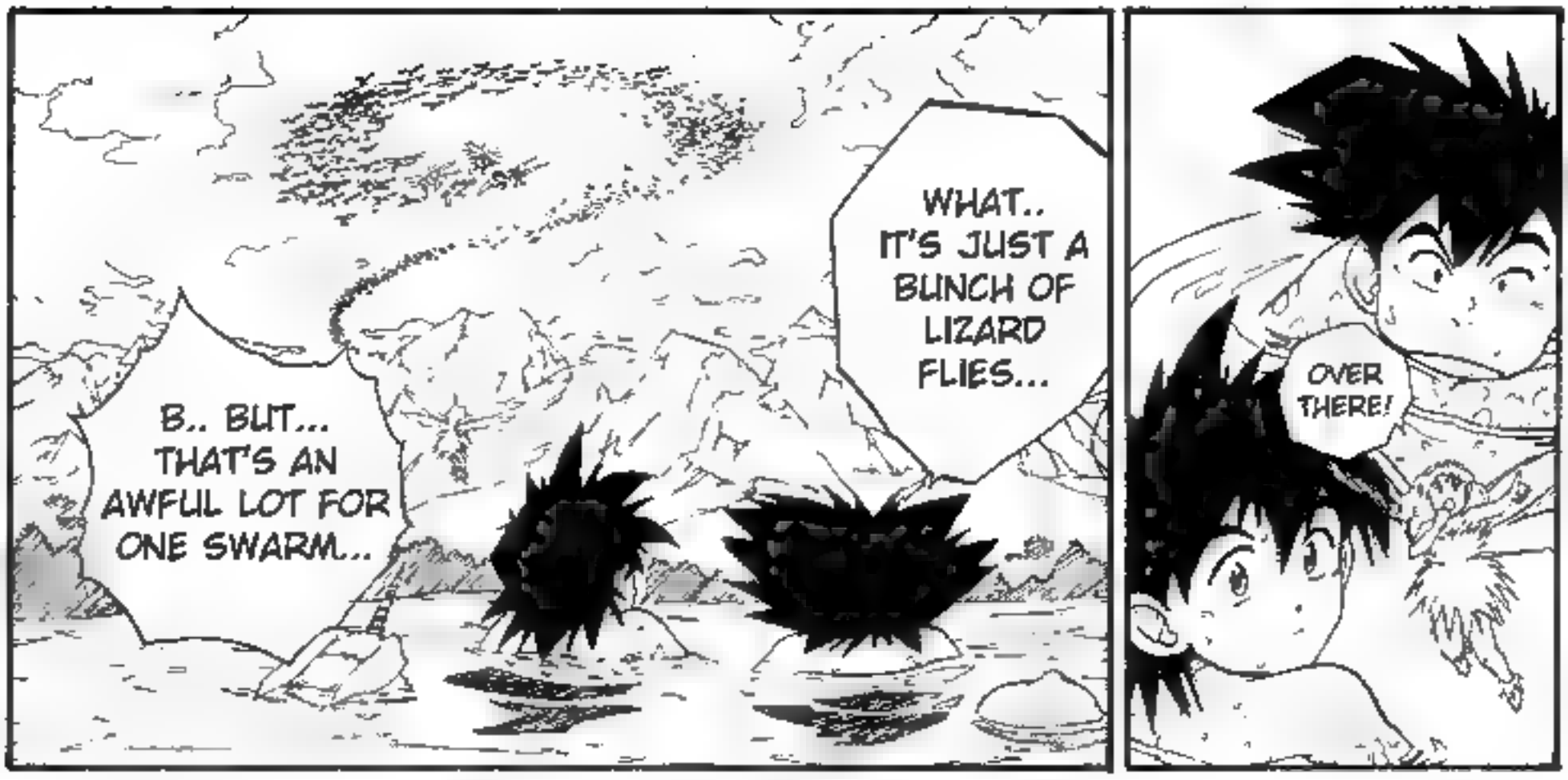
SPRING, HUH...? I GUESS I COULD GET THOSE LIZARD FLIES THERE FIRST.

TROLL...


F-
FORGIVE
ME...



!
GOTTA HURRY! ARLIS AND KIRA ARE IN DANGER..
KYAAAAAAAA!
!


B.. BUT... THAT'S AN AWFUL LOT FOR ONE SWARM...
WHAT.. IT'S JUST A BUNCH OF LIZARD FLIES...
OVER THERE!

KEEKEE

WHA!!

GEGE

GEGEGEGE

GEGE

GIRA!

EVERYBODY, RUN!

WHAT'S GOIN' ON?!

WH.. WHY ARE THE MONSTERS USING MAGIC?

WAA!

COULD THE BARRIER BE DOWN?!

NO WAY!

I CAN'T LEAVE YOU HERE.

ARUS, I'LL HOLD THESE GUYS OFF, SO GO GET THE MASTER!

AT THIS RATE, BOTH OF US ARE GONNA LOSE!

ZOOO

RUN, ARUS!

JUST HURRY UP AND GET OUTTA HERE!

KIRA!

HEY! YOU STILL HAVEN'T GOTTEN THE MASTER'S PERMISSION TO USE ATTACK MAGIC YET! IT'S FORBIDDEN!

ALRIGHT...

I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS!

BUT I'M NOT GOING TO JUST LEAVE YOU HERE!

GIRA
!!

GIRA!

GIRA!

HUFF HUFF HUFF

ARUS, STOP! YOU DON'T HAVE THE POWER TO KEEP THAT UP!

GRR

WHO ARE YOU?!

NOT TOO SHABBY...

HYA HYA HYA!

ME? YOU CAN CALL ME LORD ZEBUL, THE MINI-DEMON!

WELL, ONCE I FINISH YOU TWO OFF, ANYWAY.

KEKEKE!

BUT THIS IS THE LAST TIME I CALL MYSELF THAT...

AFTER THIS, IT'LL BE GREATER DEMON ZEBUL...

EEY!

TAKE THAT!

WHO'S A GREATER DEMON, LITTLE PUNK?!

L.. LITTLE PUNK?!

JUST FOR THAT, YOU'RE FIRST!

TAKE THIS!!

GWAAA

!

UGH! MY ARMS.. CAN'T MOVE!

KIRA!

THAT'LL TEACH YOU NOT TO MAKE FUN OF ME...

NOW, BACK TO THE MATTER AT HAND.. HOW SHALL I COOK YOU ONCE WE'RE DONE ARUS?

I WOULDN'T BREAK IT IF I WERE YOU, EITHER.. HYA HYA HYA!

HYA HYA HYA! OF COURSE, THEY'RE FROZEN!

GIMME YOUR BEST SHOT, BOY!

I CAN'T WAIT TO BECOME A GREATER DEMON! BUT SINCE THIS IS MY LAST JOB AS A MINI-DEMON... I MIGHT AS WELL MAKE IT FUN.

YOU'RE MOCKING ME?!

POOF

HYAAAA HA HA HA HA!

GIRA!

DRAGON LORD?!

THEN YOU'RE-!

WHAT'S WRONG? DID YOU WASTE ALL YOUR POWER ON DRAGON LORD'S LIZARD FLIES?

AWWW.

ENOUGH CHATTER! IT'S MY TURN NOW, SO GET READY, CUZ I WON'T HOLD BACK THIS TIME!

!

STOOOPP!

Y-YOU?! HOW COULD YOU MOVE YOUR ARMS AFTER THAT?!

GYAH!

YOU THINK I CARE?! THIS HERE'S MY FRIEND, SO OF COURSE I'LL MOVE MY ARMS IF HE'S IN DANGER!

THEY'RE FROZEN! YOU'LL BREAK THEM!

HE REALIZES THAT, RIGHT!?

WHAT! DOING SOMETHING THAT PAINFUL FOR YOUR FRIEND'S SAKE...?

I DON'T CARE! LISTEN, YOU GOTTA HURRY UP AND GET OUTTA HERE!

KIRA, THAT'S ENOUGH! YOU'LL END UP BREAKING YOUR ARMS!

TAKE THAT THAT! AND THAT!

!

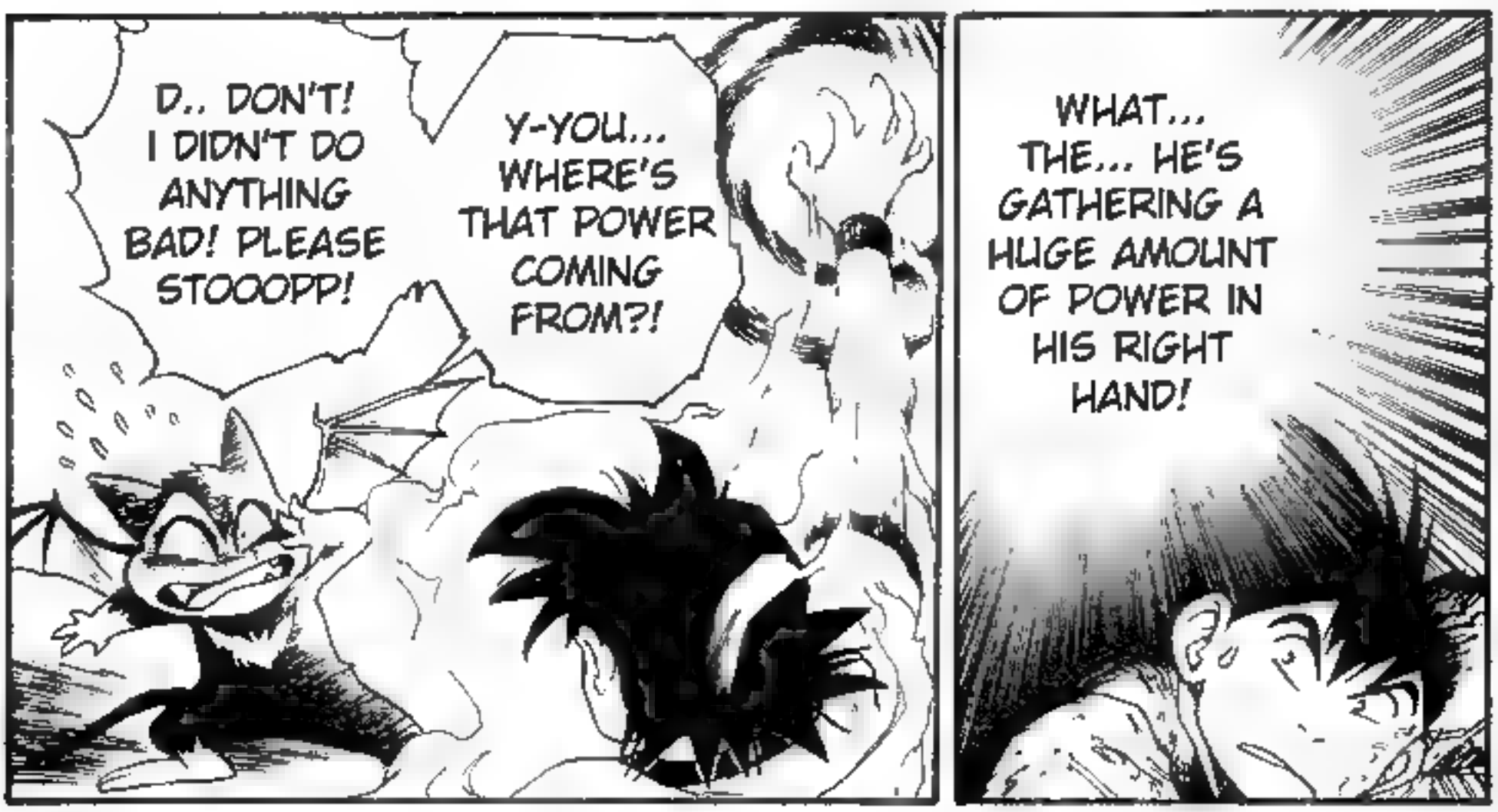
WARGH!

AN OPENING!

YOU... YOU DID THAT TO KIRA!

KIRA!

HEH?


D.. DON'T! I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING BAD! PLEASE STOOOPP!
Y-YOU... WHERE'S THAT POWER COMING FROM?!
WHAT... THE... HE'S GATHERING A HUGE AMOUNT OF POWER IN HIS RIGHT HAND!

GIRA!!

GYAAA!

GIHIIII!
LIZARD FLIES!
HELP!

HELP ME KILL
THAT GUY!

YOU BASTARDS! DON'T RUN OFF AND LEAVE ME!

AAAH!

DAMNIT...

DAMNIT ALL...

F.. FOR... GIVE...

TROLL.. I WAS SUCH A FOOL...

HEHEH, I GUESS ONCE HE DIED, THE SPELL WORE OFF!

KIRA!

THAT GUY... HE MENTIONED DRAGON LORD'S NAME... JUST WHAT THE HECK'S GOING ON...

HEY, I SUDDENLY FEEL FINE.

..AH.. THANK GOODNESS...

!

YOU BASTARD, THAT WAS REALLY STUPID!

ARUS!!

MAN... I COME BACK FROM ONE SIMPLE TRIP, AND LOOK WHAT HAPPENS...

WE'LL LET ARUS SLEEP MORE WHILE WE COME UP WITH A REAL PLAN...

ANYWAY, LORAN KINGDOM IS DEFINITELY UNDER THE CONTROL OF MONSTERS. IT'S ALSO RUMORED THAT A NEW "DEMON KING" HAS BEEN BORN...

I COULDN'T FIND OUT MUCH MORE THAN THAT, THOUGH.

INDEED... BUT WHERE WILL YOU GO NOW? ANY PATH YOU TAKE WILL BE PERILOUS...

AT ANY RATE, IT'S NO LONGER SAFE TO STAY HERE.

ARUS...
YOU'VE EARNED
YOUR REST.

I'LL KEEP YOU SAFE.

ポポン

ALSO, I CAN'T
HELP BUT
WONDER HOW
MONSTERS EVEN
FOUND THIS
PLACE..

ZEBUL...
YOU FAILED TO
COMPLETE YOUR
JOB.

HMPH.

AS LONG AS
THAT'S
ACCOMPLISHED, I
CAN CONTINUE
WITH THE NEXT
STEP....

BUT THAT'S
ALRIGHT. YOU AT
LEAST SERVED THE
PURPOSE OF
REMOVING THAT
ANNOYING
BARRIER...

EIEN NO MANGA

HTTP://WWW.E-N-M.NET
#ENM@IRC.IRCHIGHWAY.NET

DRAGON QUEST: EMBLEM OF ROTO
VOLUME 1 CHAPTER 03

RAW PROVIDER: STARFISHER

SCANNER: LEWSTHERIN

TRANSLATOR: CHRISTINA ROSE & A SECRETIVE NEKO

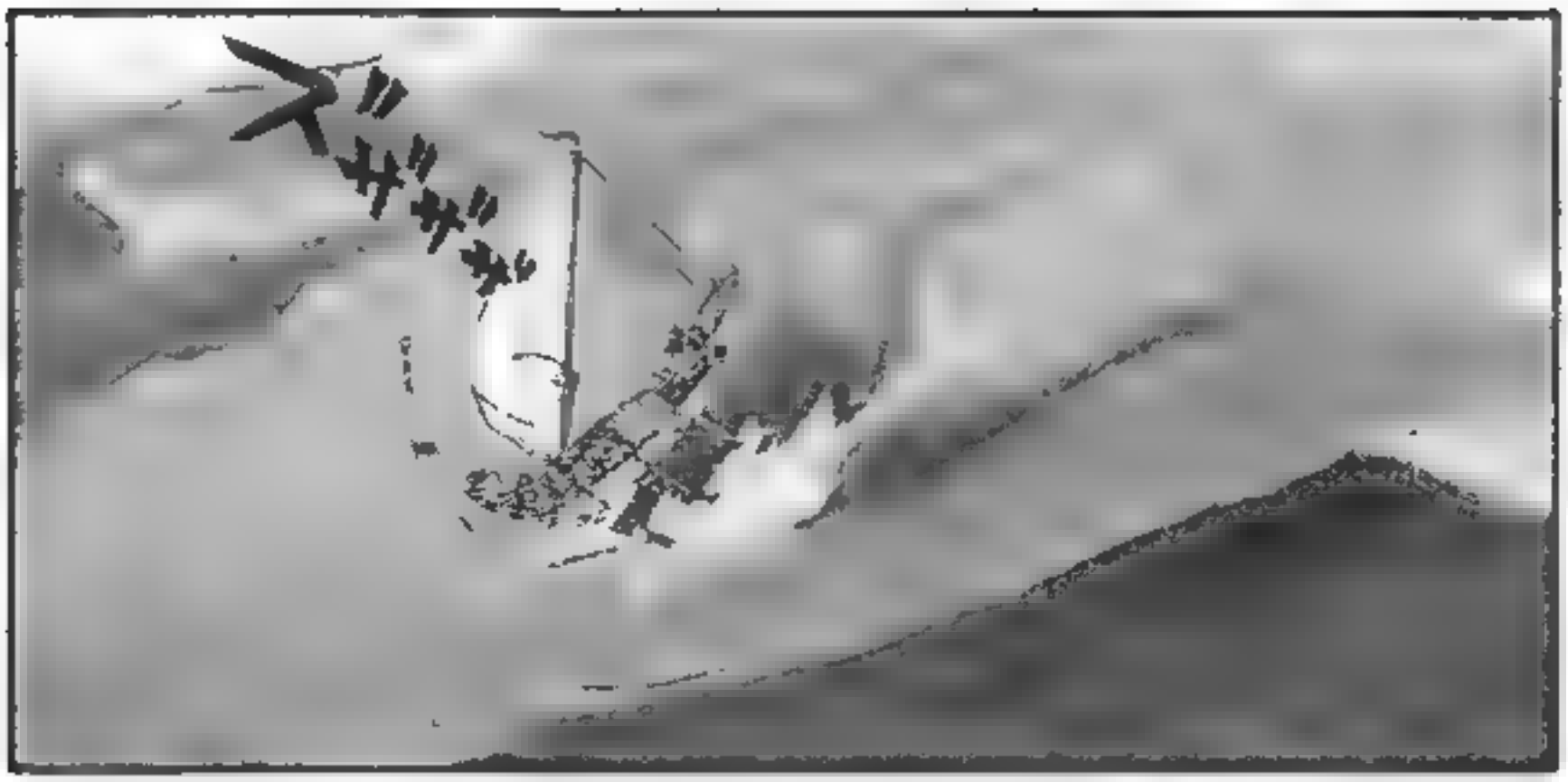
EDITORS: SUPER SECRETIVE EDITOR(S) & A SECRETIVE NEKO

PROOFREADER: STARFISHER

GROW, AND HUNGER, CREATURES OF THE EVIL WORLD... SOON, THE DAY WILL COME WHEN YOU MAY FEAST UPON THE PEOPLE OF THIS WORLD! THEN, WE SHALL RULE....

LEVEL:3

SAGE KADAL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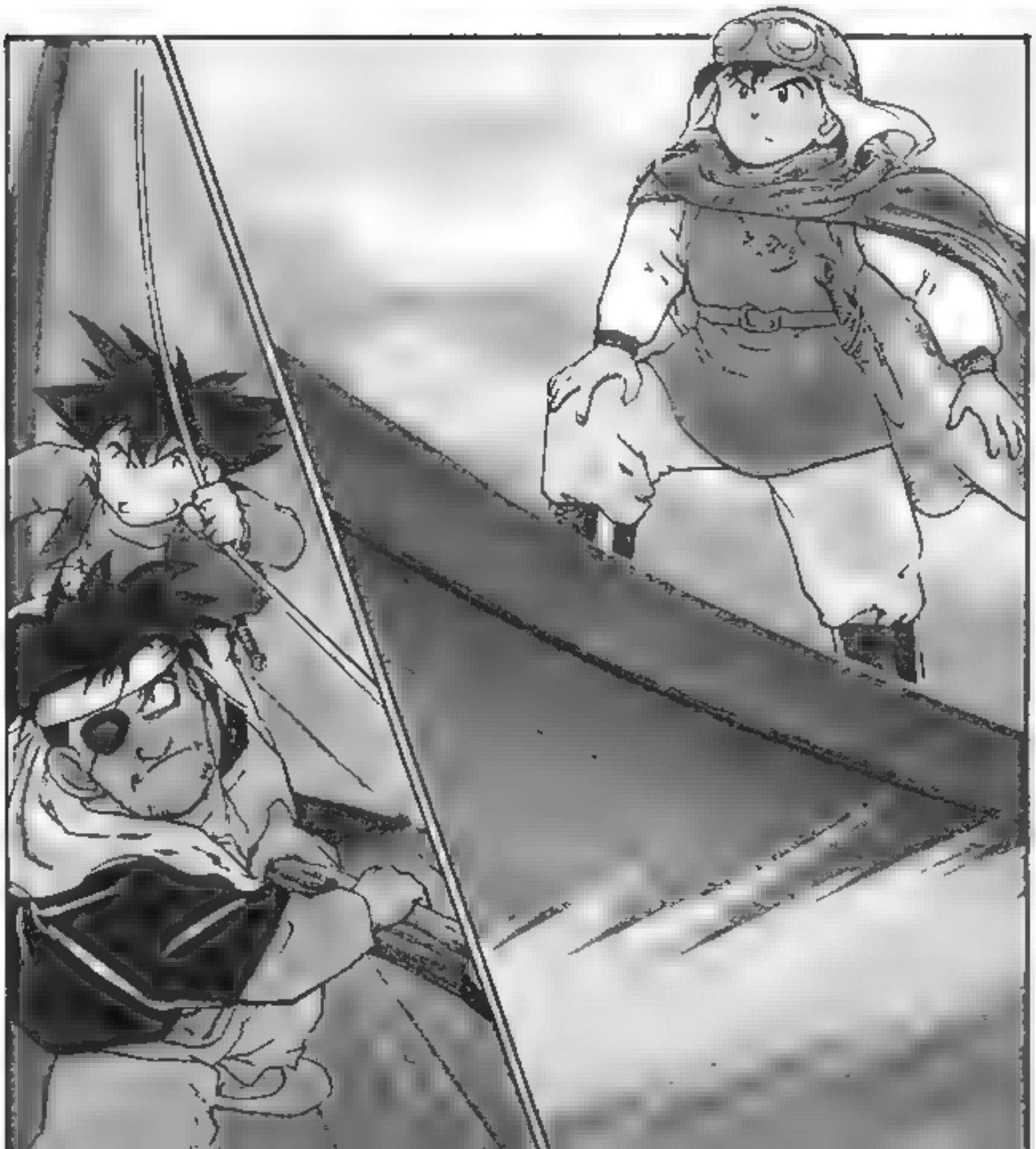
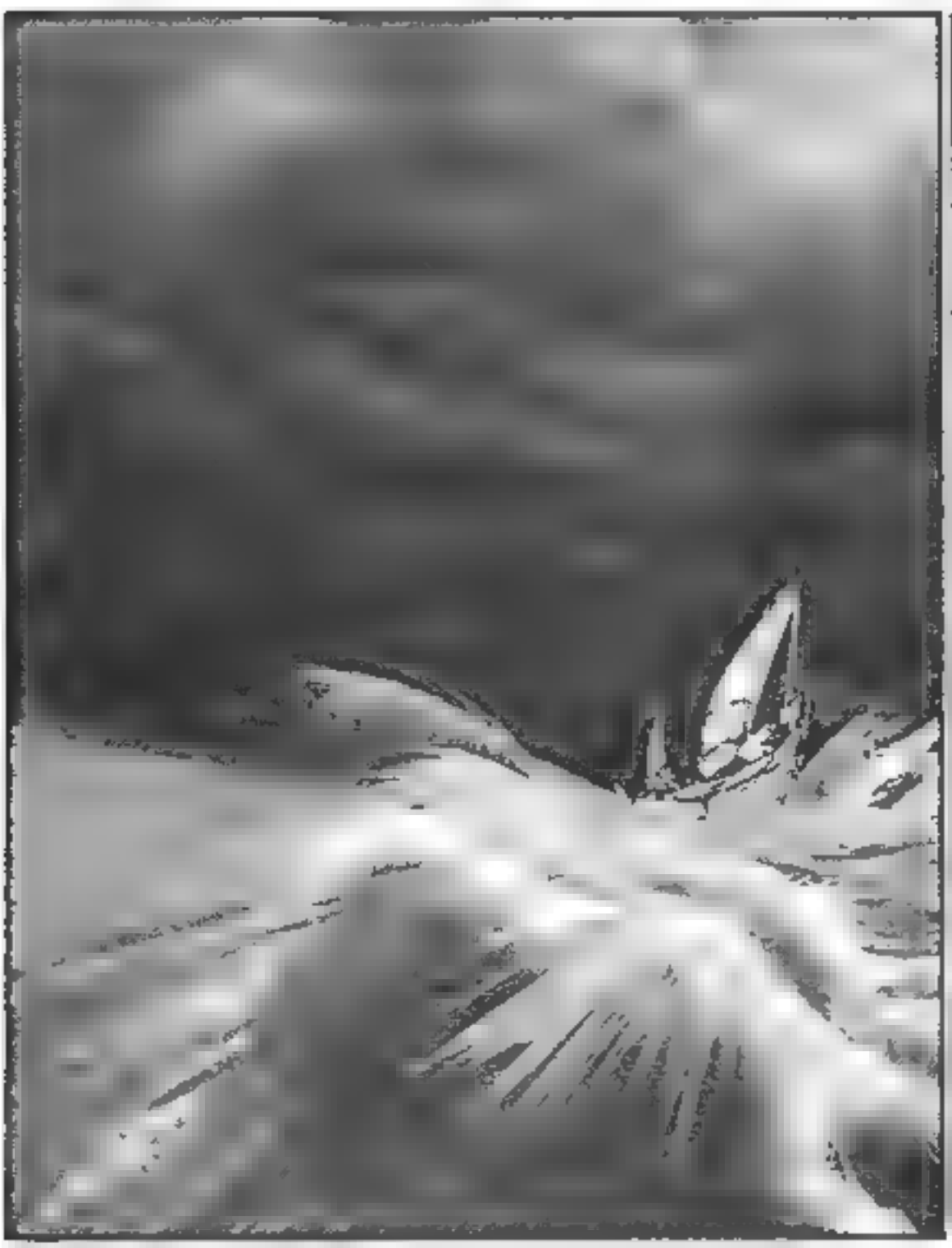


THAT'S A BAD WIND... AND IT'S STARTING TO PICK UP.



...FATHER!

LOOK OVER THERE!

!

WH--
WHAT
THE?!

UWAAAA!
IT'S A RED DRAGON!
GROWL...

GWAAAA!

!

ARUS!

LOOK OUT!

LUNAFREA!

GIRA!

ゴォォ

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NYA

三日目

FUBAHA!

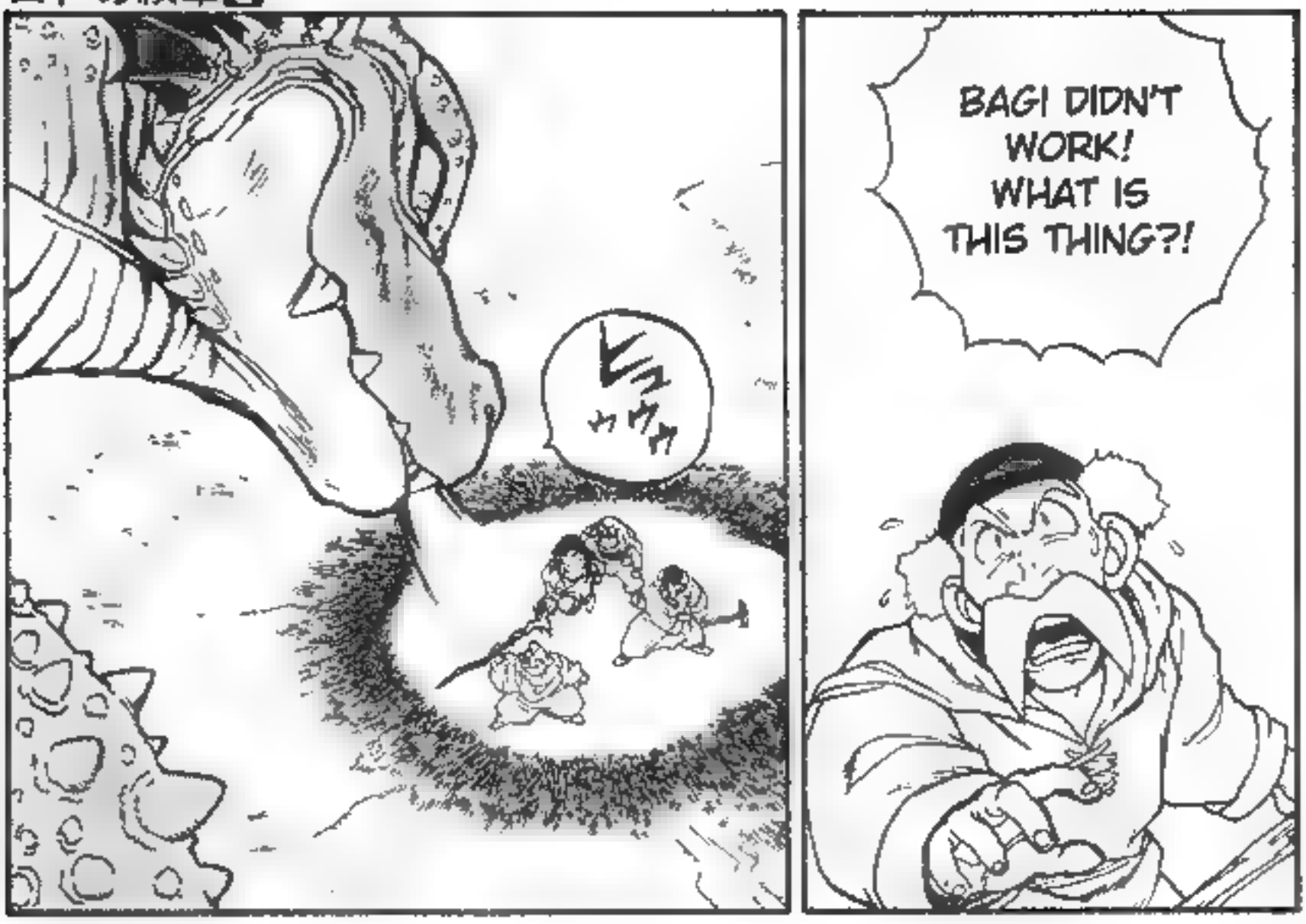
MASTER!

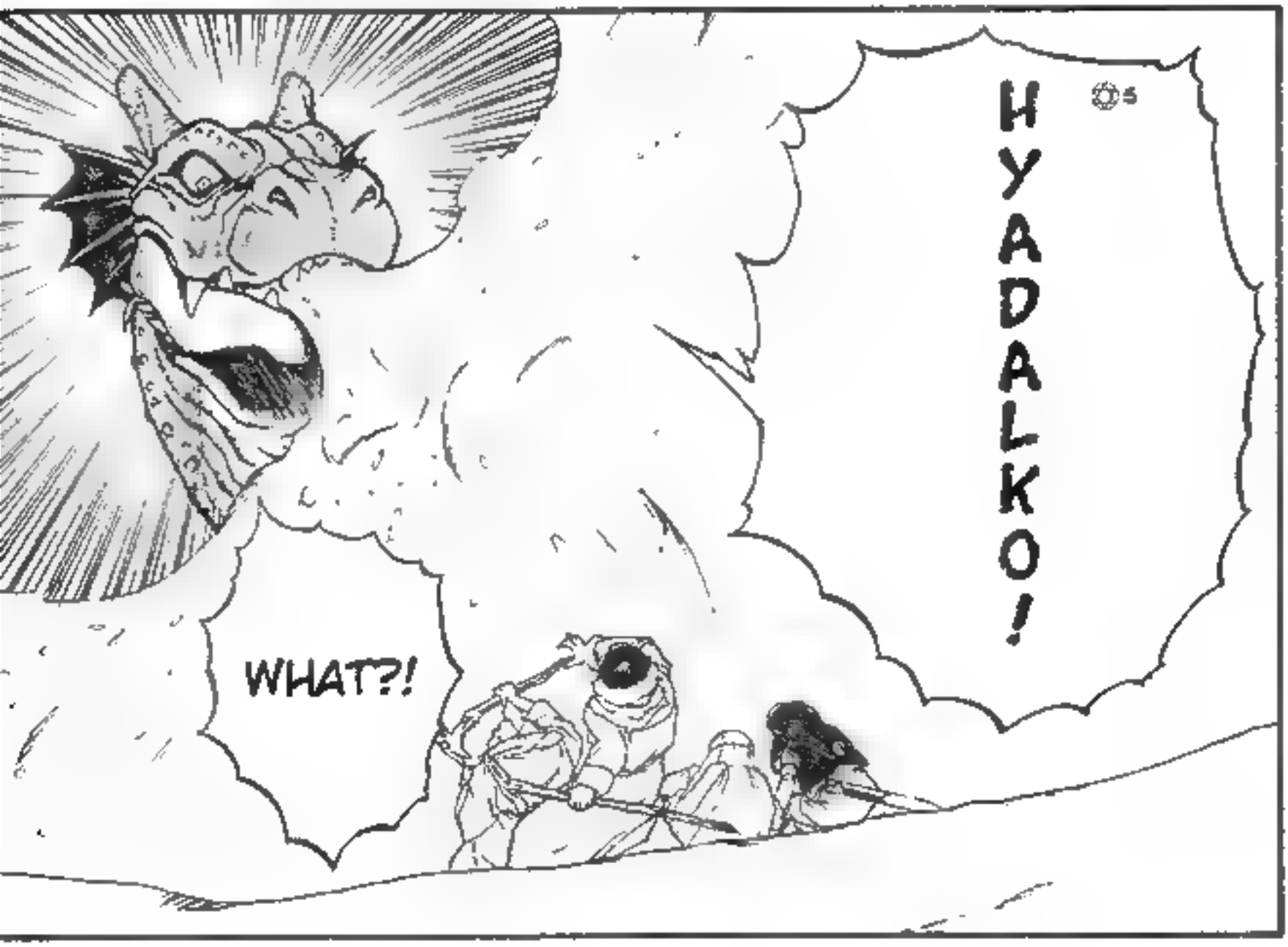
ARUS!

GET BACK!

BAGI!

10


BAGI DIDN'T WORK! WHAT IS THIS THING?!


HYADALKO!
WHAT?!

GRR..

THAT DRAGON KNOWS HYADALKO?!

DAAAARGH!

!

DAMN! I'LL HAVE TO RESORT TO MY DEATH MAGIC!

ARUS!

ズサササ

MAHOTON

ZAKI!

ドカ!!

ZAKI!
ZAKI!
ZAKI!

……

……

FEH..

ZAKI ZAKI ZAKI
ZAKI ZAKI ZAKI
ZAKI ZAKI ZAKI
ZAKI ZAKI ZAKI
ZAKI ZAKI ZAKI

PHEW...

ZAKI ZAKI ZAKI
ZAKI ZAKI ZAKI
ZAKI ZAKI ZAKI
ZAKI ZAKI ZAKI
ZAKI ZAKI ZAKI

FUHAHAHAHAHAHA...! WEAK LITTLE THINGS! WITH THAT LEVEL OF MAGIC, IT'LL TAKE YOU 100 YEARS BEFORE YOU CAN EVEN CHALLENGE THE DRAGON LORD!

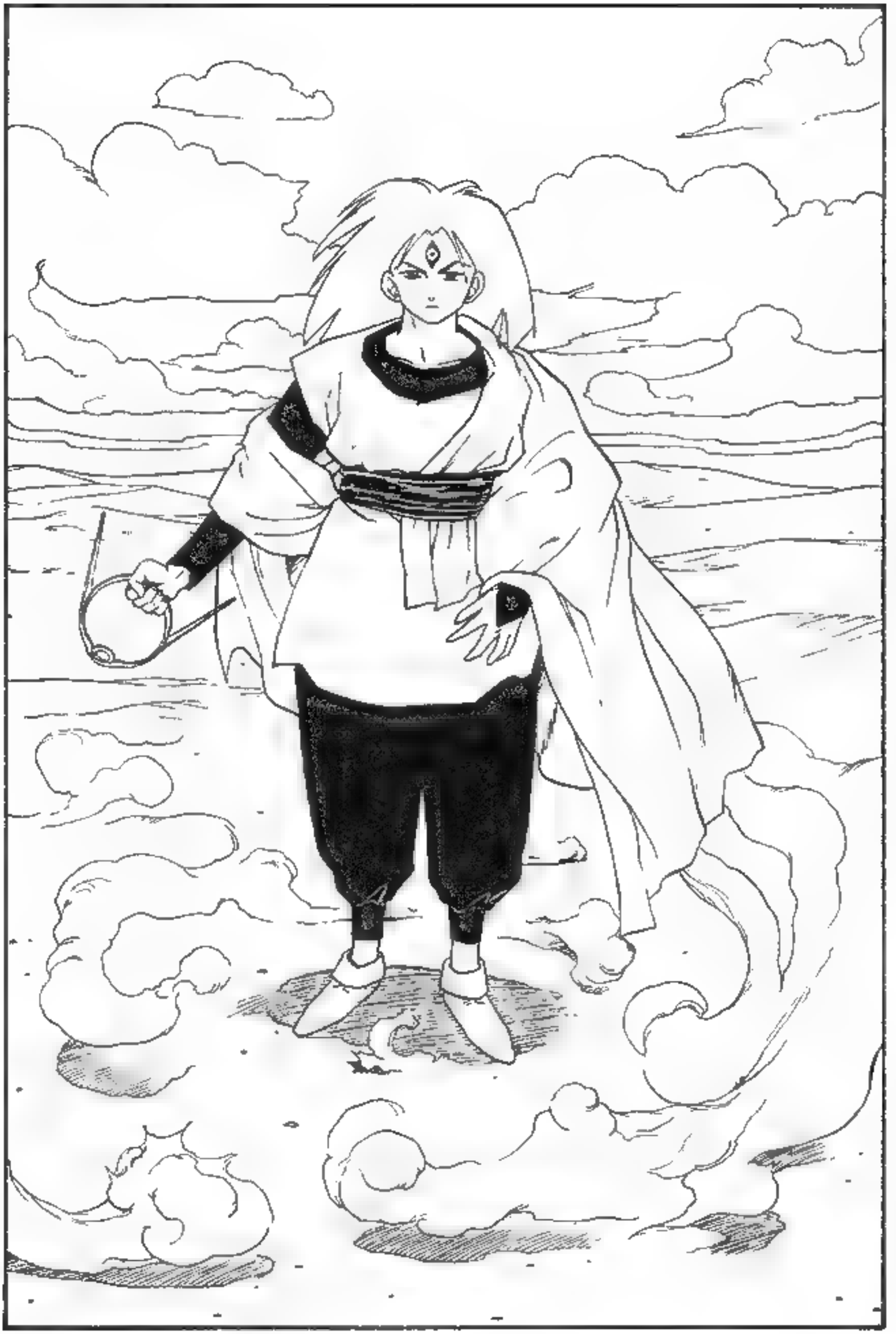
HUFF HAH HEH..

UWAAAA!

ガーン

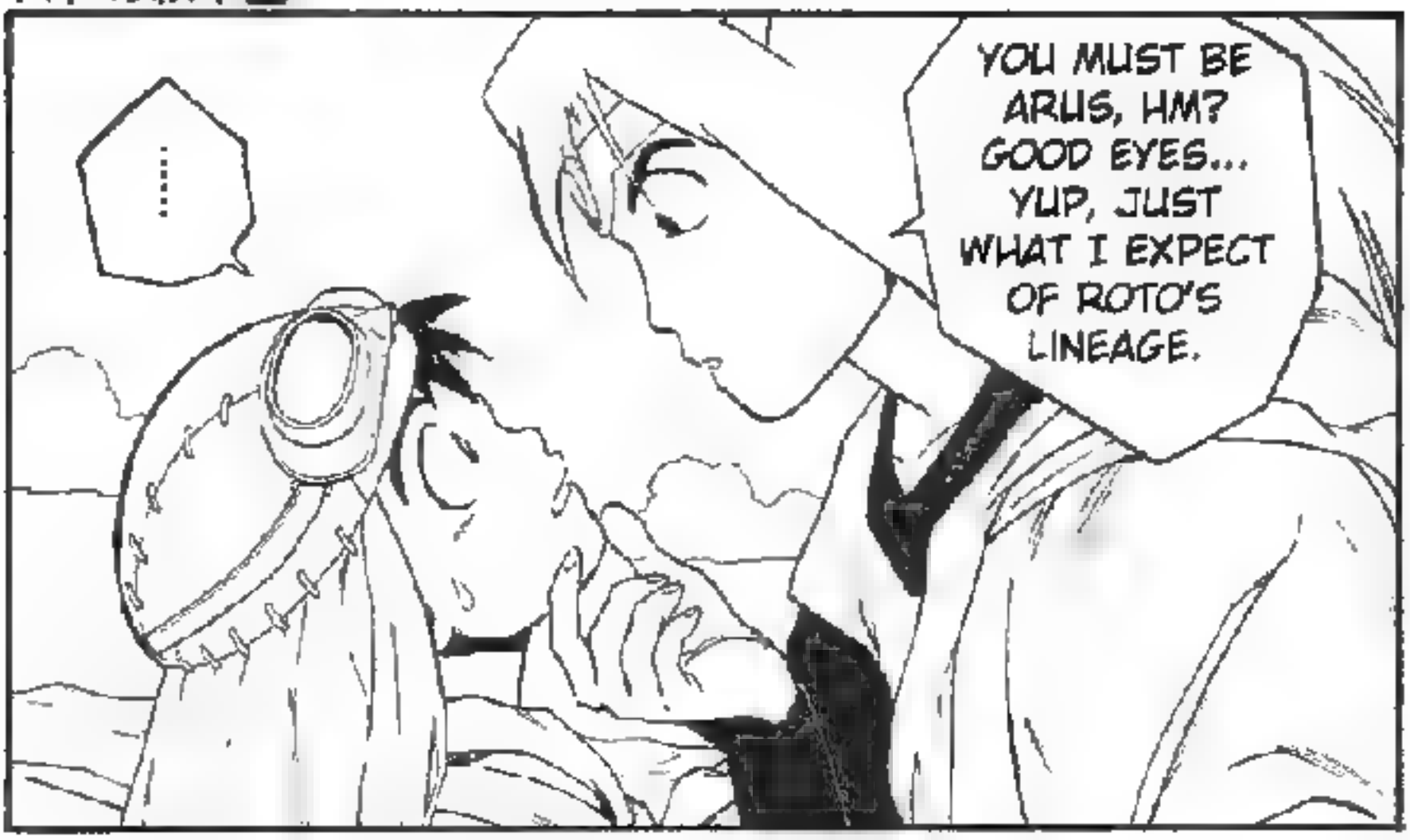
?

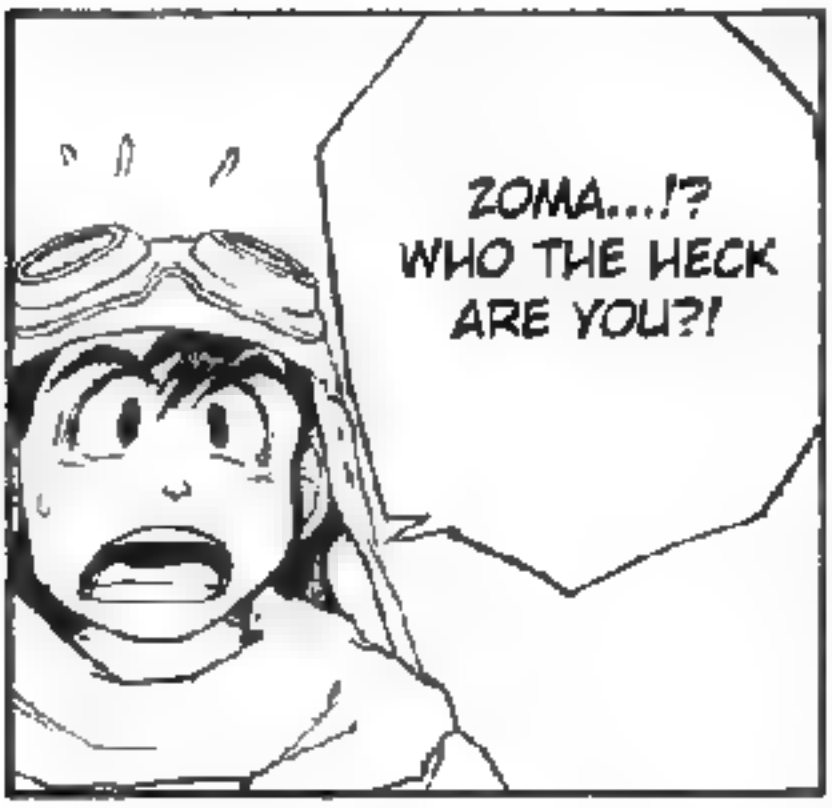
!!



I APOLO-
GIZE FOR
STARTLING
YOU. IS
ANYBODY
WOUNDED?

NAHAHAHAHA!
THAT WAS JUST A
LITTLE SOMETHING I
SENT TO TEST YOU
GUYS WITH...
AH, I'M SORRY,
I'M SORRY


……
YOU MUST BE ARUS, HM? GOOD EYES... YUP, JUST WHAT I EXPECT OF ROTO'S LINEAGE.


ZOMA...!? WHO THE HECK ARE YOU?!

YET, YOU STILL SHOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT WEAK ATTACKS LIKE THOSE. THOSE ARE NOTHING COMPARED TO THE WOUNDS I GOT FIGHTING ZOMA!

"THIS PERSON IS THE GREAT ILLUSIONARY SAGE KADAL!" ...IS WHAT OTHERS WOULD SAY. NAHAHAHAHAHA!
KADAL!

ONE OF THE THREE HOLY WARRIORS WHO ASSISTED ROTO IN THE BATTLE AGAINST ZOMA...YOU'RE ONE OF THEM?!

GREAT SAGE KADAL?!

BELIEVE WHAT YOU WANT, BUT WHO ELSE STILL KNOWS THE MAGIC OF THE SANDS OF TIME?

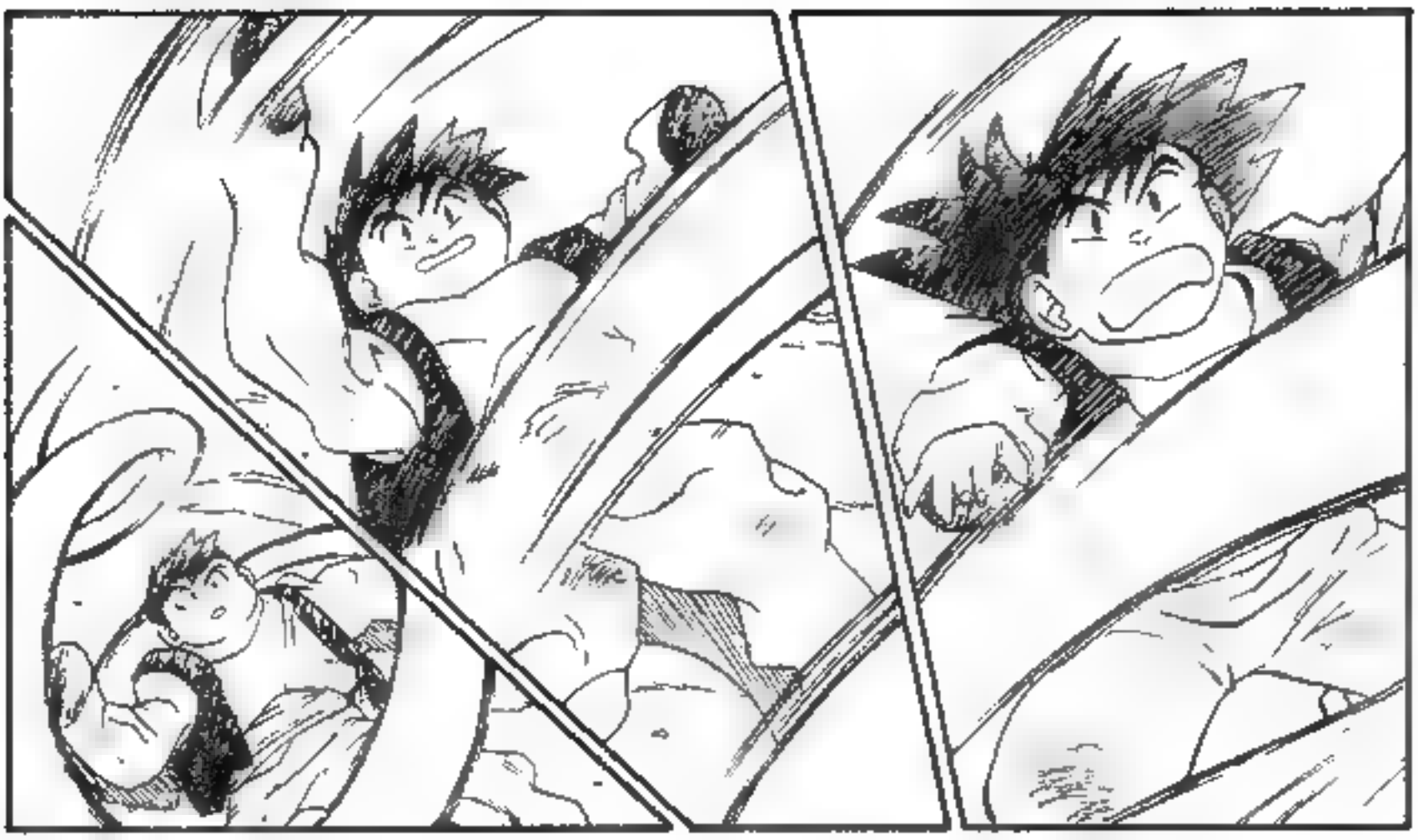
NO WAY! ZOMA WAS BEATEN OVER 100 YEARS AGO!

YOU CAN'T FOOL ME! YOU'RE BARELY 20!

OBSERVE!

KIRA!

UWAAAA!

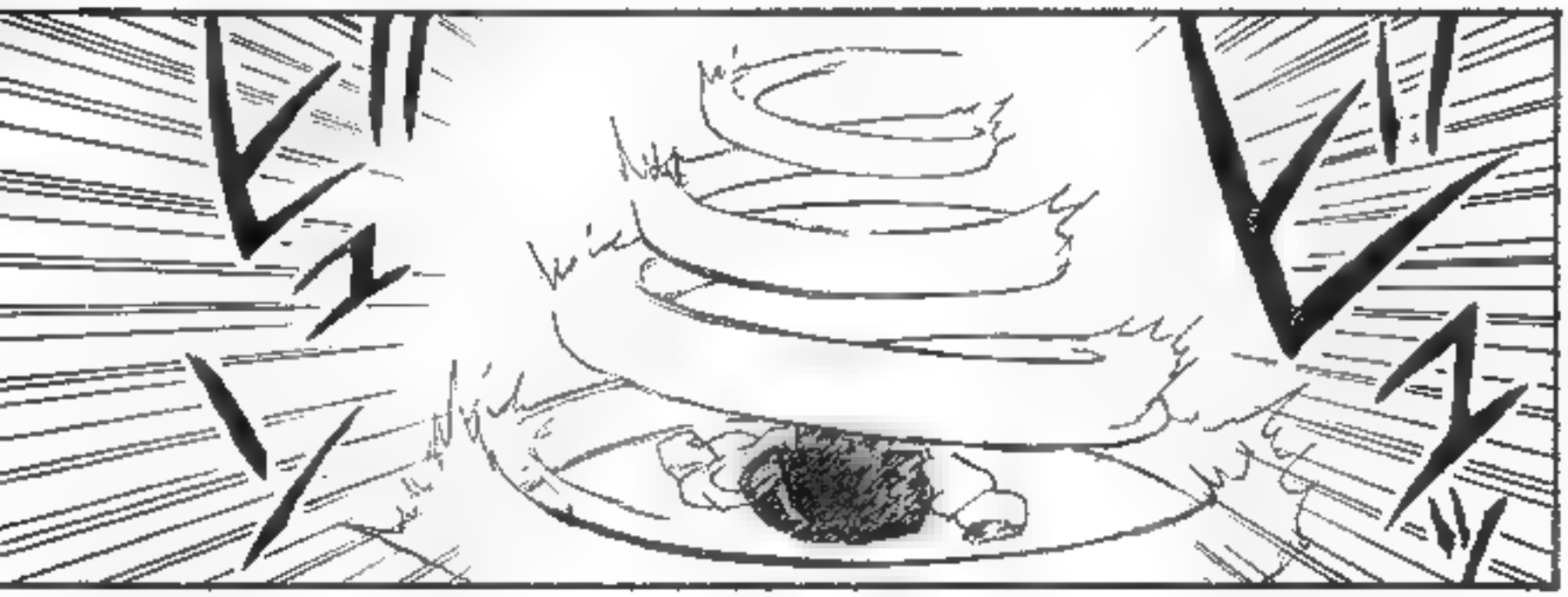


!

KYA

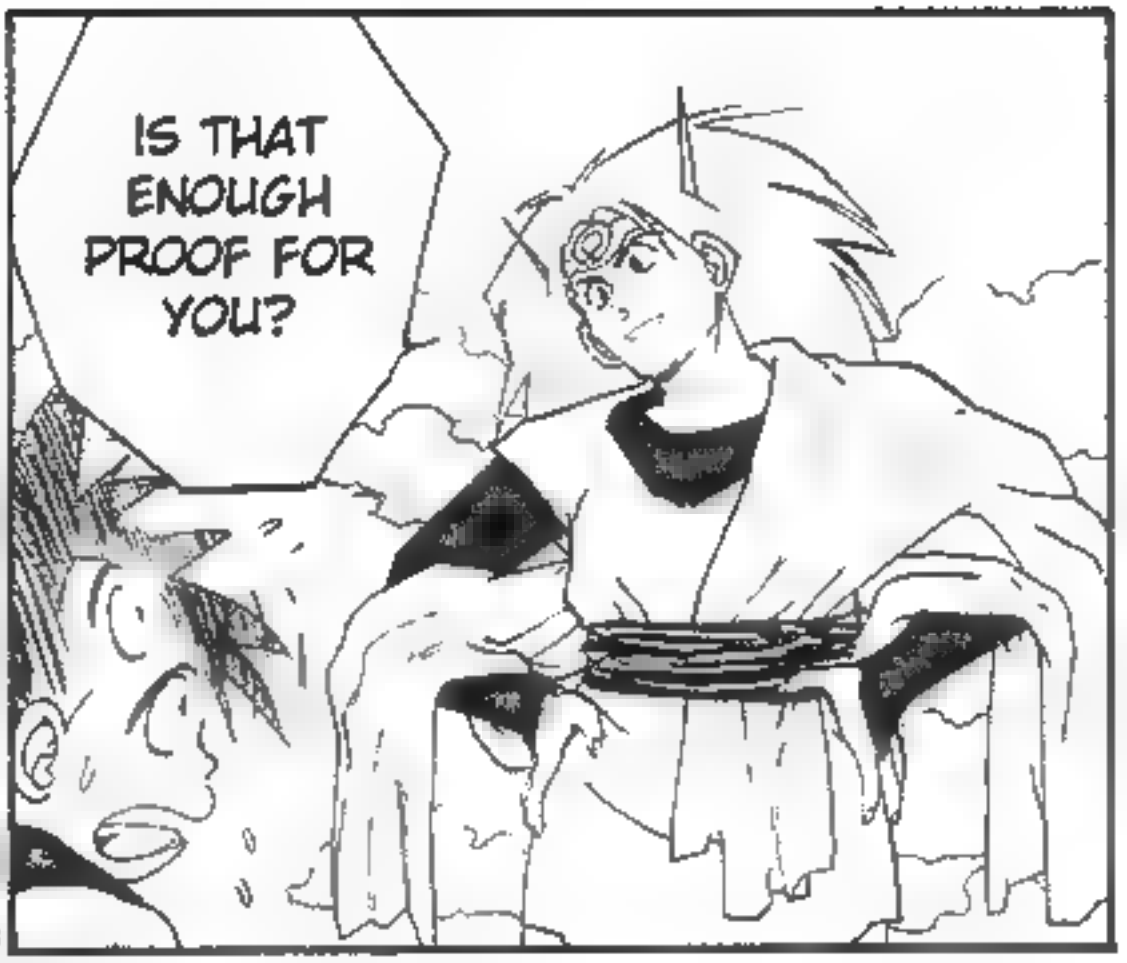
パキン

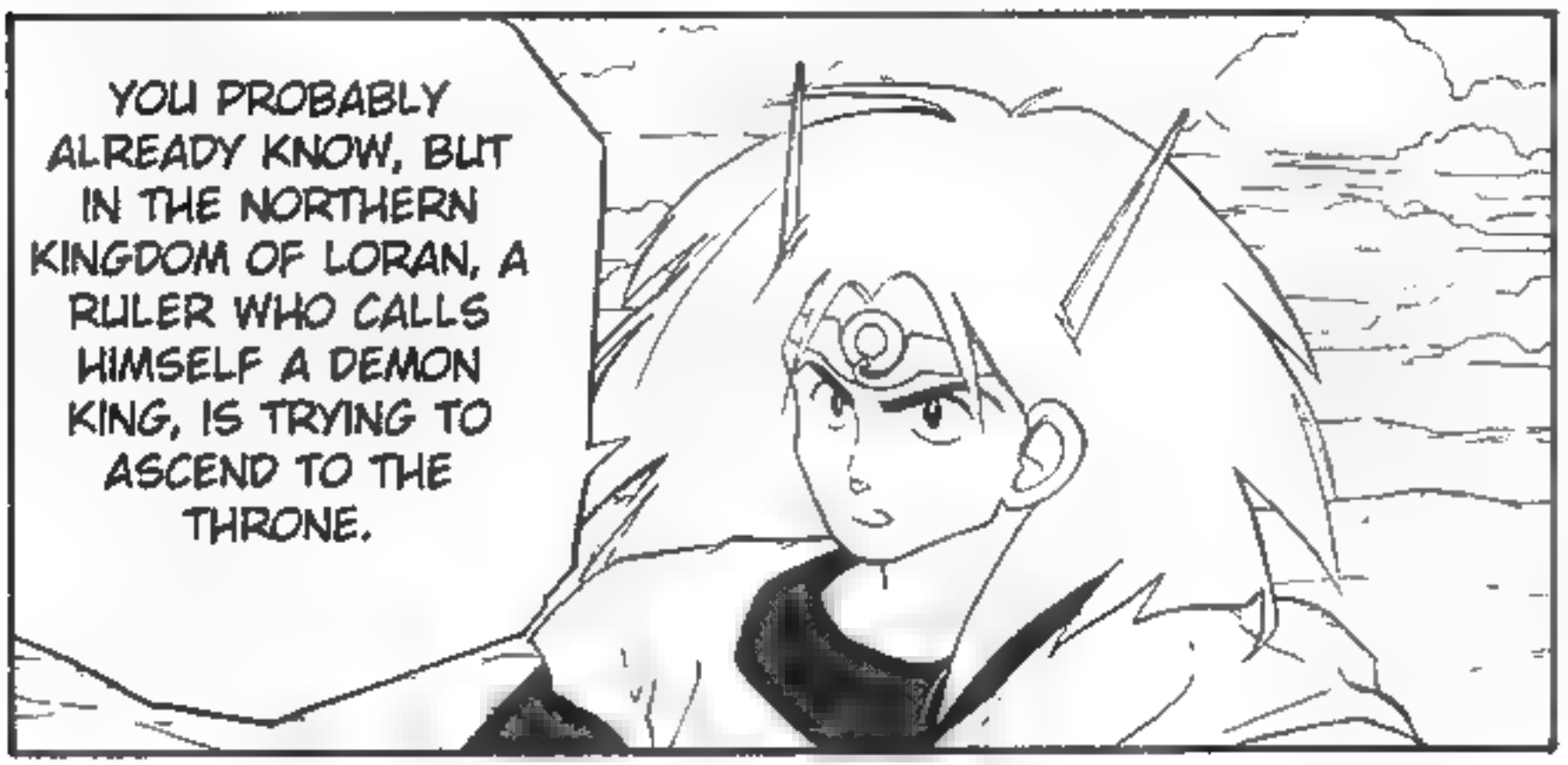
OKAY I
BUWEEVE
YOU.



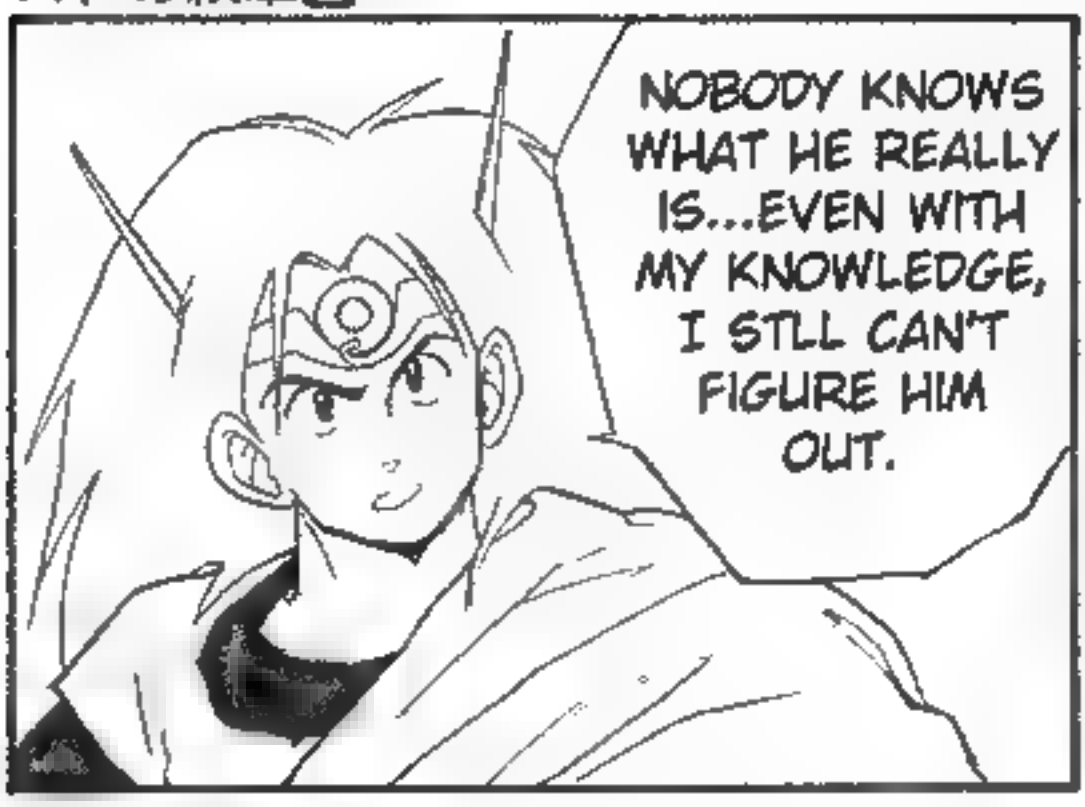
10
11

WOW!

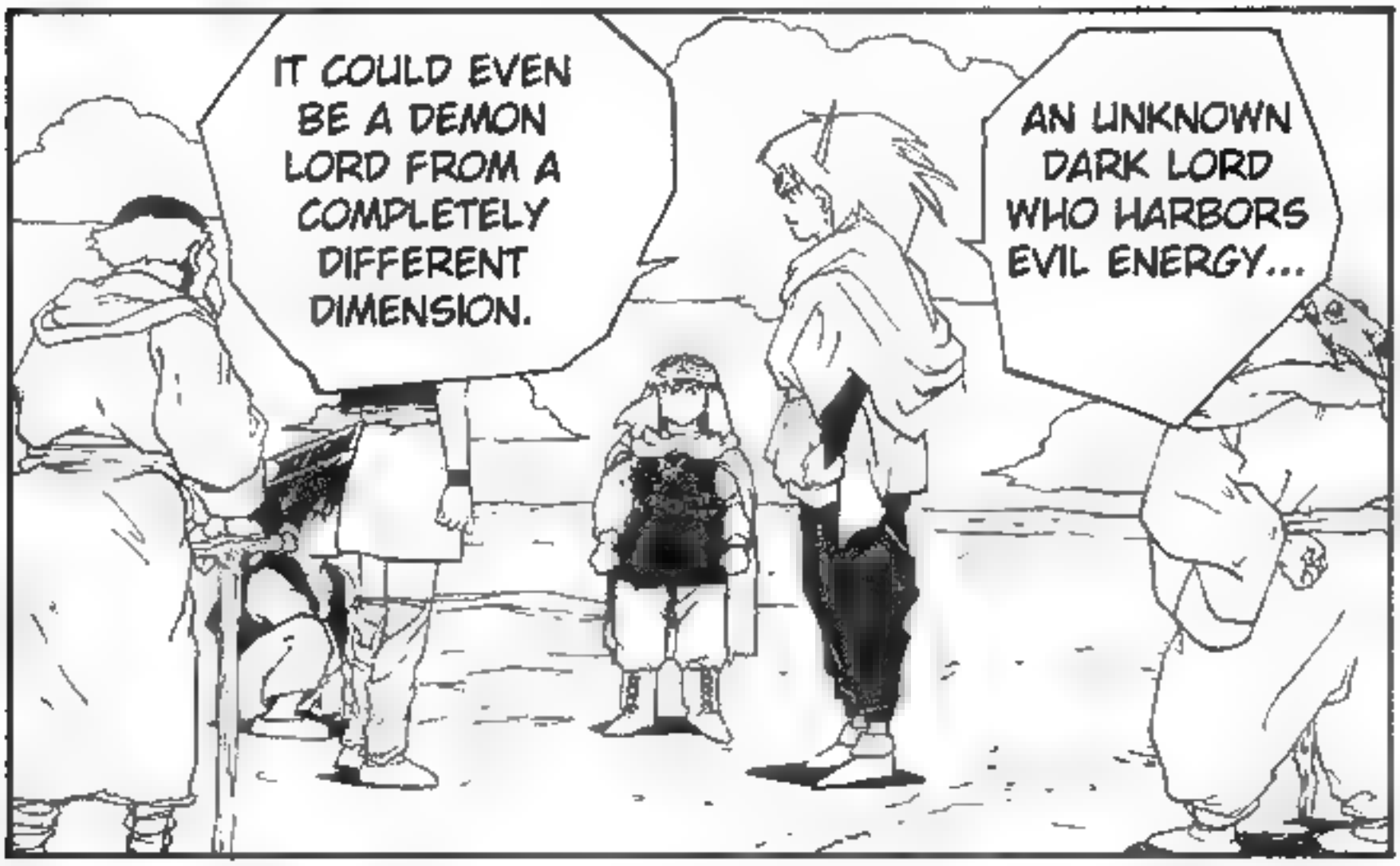

IS THAT ENOUGH PROOF FOR YOU?

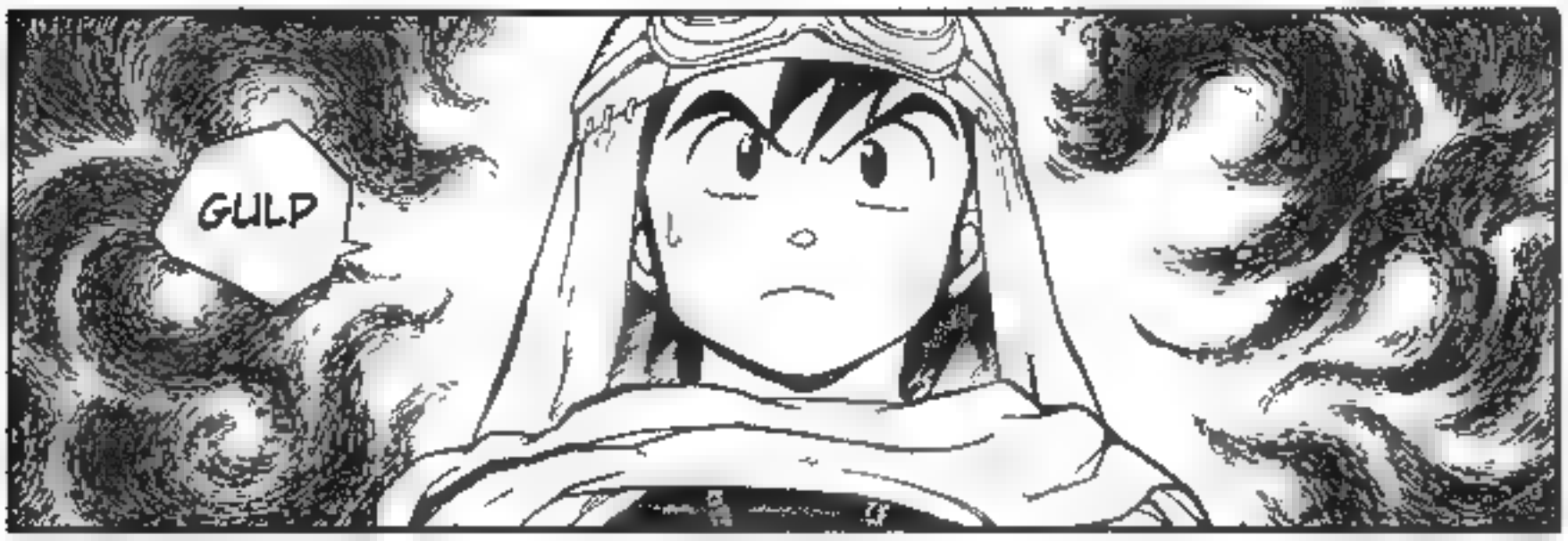

YOU PROBABLY ALREADY KNOW, BUT IN THE NORTHERN KINGDOM OF LORAN, A RULER WHO CALLS HIMSELF A DEMON KING, IS TRYING TO ASCEND TO THE THRONE.

"IMAGINE"?
WHAT YOU MAY NOT KNOW IS THAT THERE IS A DARKER, MORE SINISTER FORCE BEHIND IT... THE EVIL LORD "IMAGINE"*


NOBODY KNOWS WHAT HE REALLY IS...EVEN WITH MY KNOWLEDGE, I STLL CAN'T FIGURE HIM OUT.

TH..THAT'S?!


IT COULD EVEN BE A DEMON LORD FROM A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT DIMENSION.
AN UNKNOWN DARK LORD WHO HARBORS EVIL ENERGY...


GULP

HOWEVER... AT YOUR CURRENT LEVEL, YOU COULDN'T EVEN HOPE TO DEFEAT HIS UNDERLING, DRAGON LORD. WITH JUST ONE FLICK OF HIS HAND, YOU'D BE DONE FOR!

ONLY SOMEONE OF ROTO'S BLOOD...

ARUS, YOU'RE ONE OF HIS DESCENDANTS...

ONLY THE CHOSEN ONE CAN OPPOSE THE DEMON KING AND SAVE THE WORLD FROM THE EVIL HAND OF "IMAGINE"! IN OTHER WORDS...

.....

YOU MUST HAVE REALIZED THAT ON YOUR OWN, WHEN YOU FOUGHT ME!

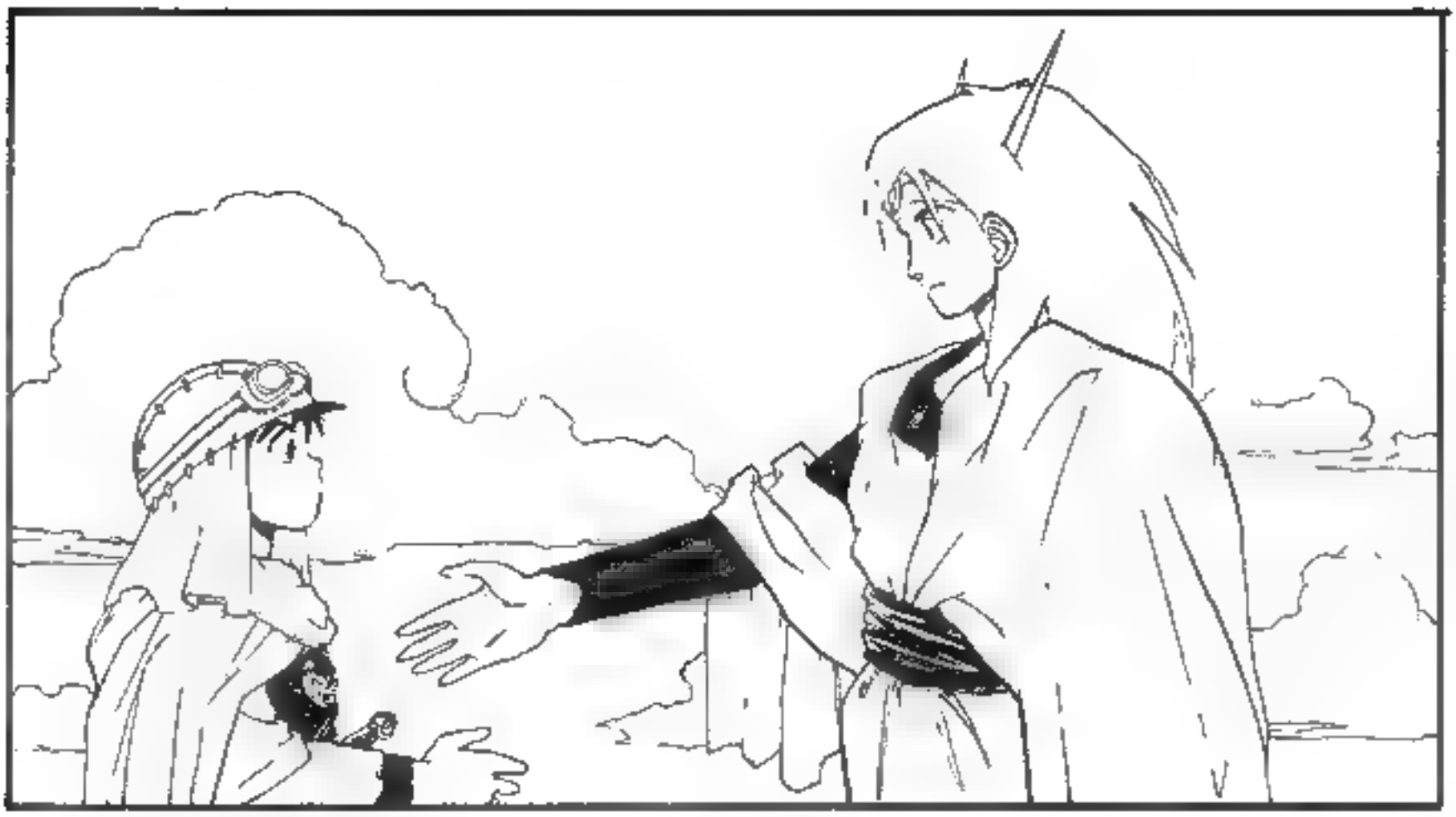
ゴッ

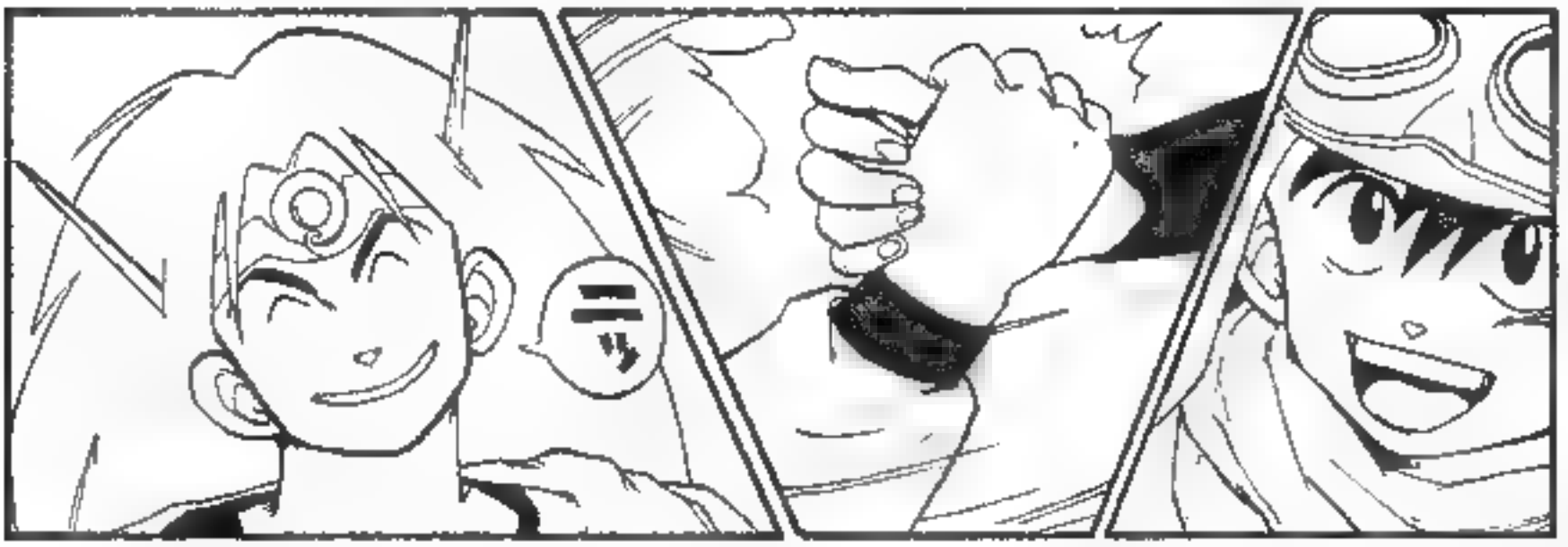
I'LL RAISE YOU INTO A TRUE HERO!

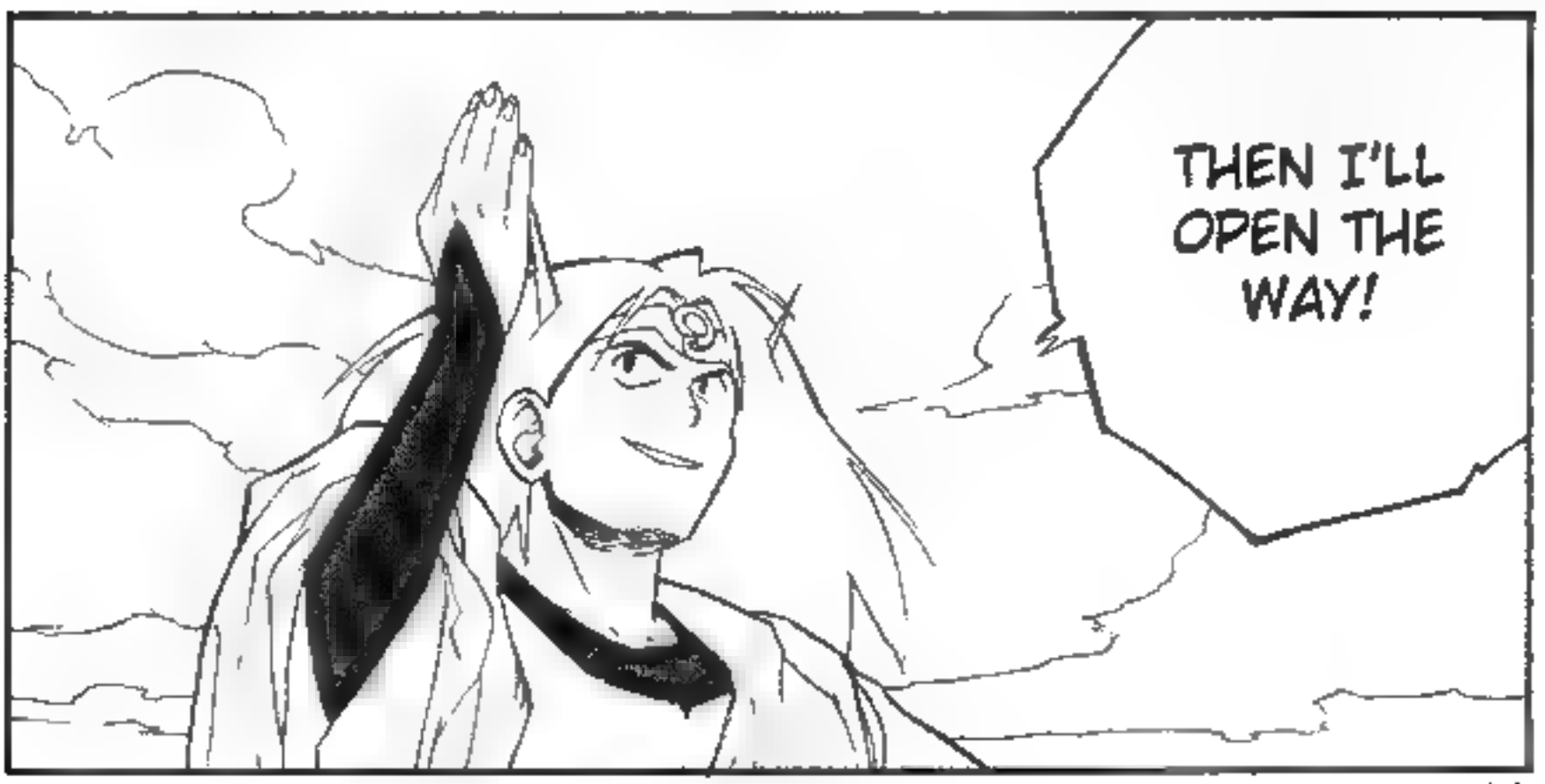
SO! HOW WOULD LIKE TO TRAIN UNDER MY GUIDANCE?

FOR MY MOTHER, MY FATHER, AND EVERYBODY ELSE....AND FOR THE SAKE OF SAVING THE WORLD, I'LL TAKE ANYTHING!

I'LL DO IT! I DON'T CARE HOW STRICT THE TRAINING IS!






THEN I'LL OPEN THE WAY!

I'VE HEARD SUCH A THING SPOKEN OF...
THAT'S...! ONLY...A TRUE SAGE COULD LIVE IN A MIRAGE TOWER!

WA-WAIT! HOLD ON A SEC! LET ME ACCOMPANY YOU!

HM?

LET'S GO.

Y-YES!

HM?!

THAT'S A LITTLE DIFFICULT TO ASK...

I... I'D LIKE TO LEARN FROM A SAGE, TOO.

JUST KEEP IN MIND THAT THE WEAK GET SPAT BACK OUT INTO THE HOT DESERT WITH THE TRASH! IF YOU'RE PREPARED FOR THAT THEN DO AS YOU LIKE!

INTERLOCKING CIRCLES... JUST LIKE THE HOLY WARRIOR BEFORE....

THEN I'LL JUST TAKE THESE TWO INTO MY CUSTODY... GO AHEAD AND STAY AT THE HERMIT'S HIDEAWAY, YOU CAN PICK THEM UP AT THE END OF THREE MONTHS.

AWRIGHT!

IT...
VANISHED.

!

NOW, IT'S TIME FOR MY FIRST LESSON.

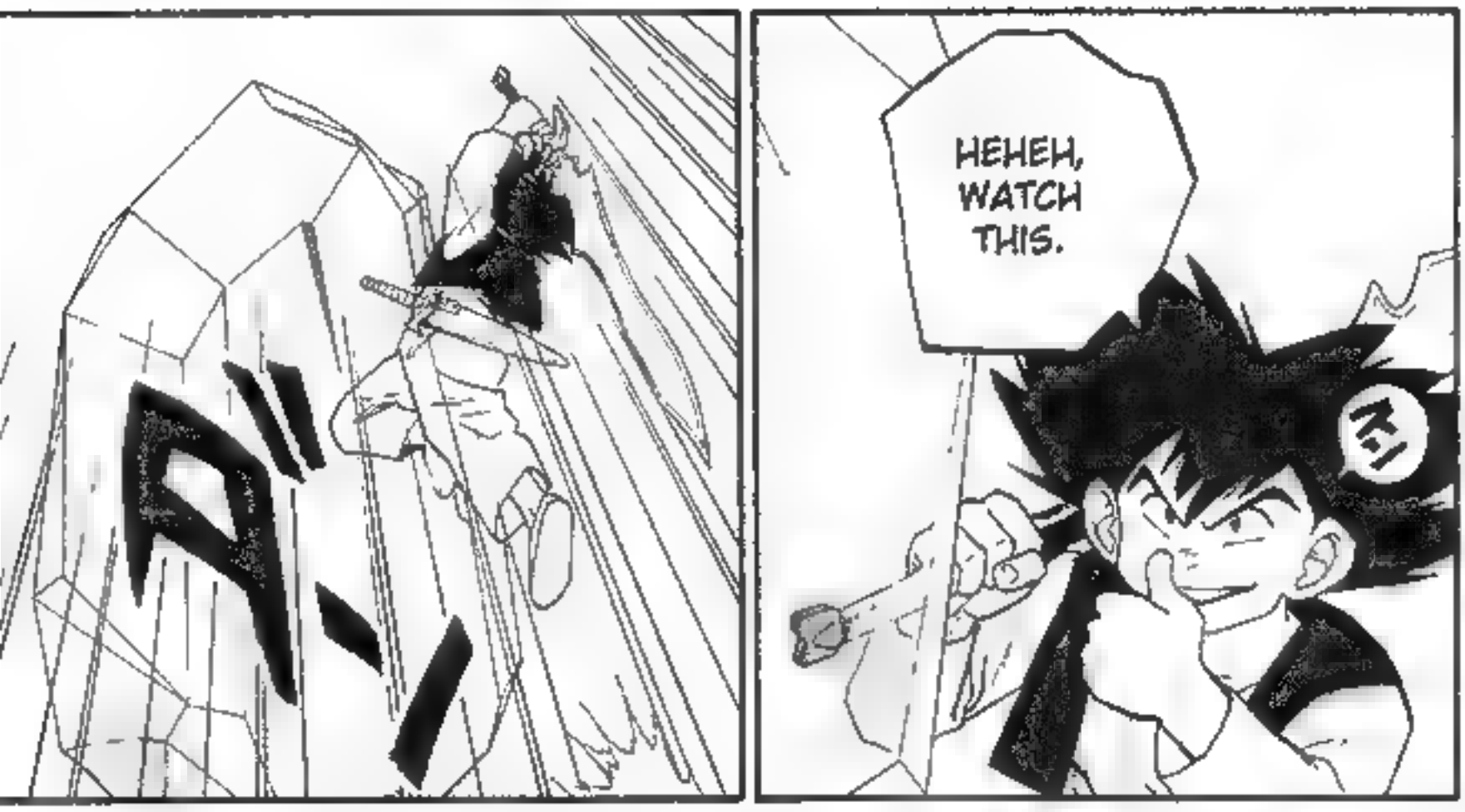
UWAA!

TH.. THIS IS...

TAKE A LOOK...WHICHEVER SWORD YOU USE IS FINE... I WANT YOU TO USE YOUR SKILL AT HANDLING A SWORD TO CUT THIS CRYSTAL INTO PIECES.

YOU DON'T HAVE THE POWER TO USE SPELLS LIKE ARUS DOES, BUT YOUR SKILLED HANDS MAKE YOU PERFECTLY SUITED TO WALK TO PATH OF THE SWORD...

UGH, HEAVY!
ALRIGHT! THIS ONE SEEMS LIKE IT'LL DO THE JOB.
THAT'S SIMPLE! ANY OF THESE, HUH?


HEHEH, WATCH THIS.

TAA!

DWA!

ORAA!

!

NAHAHAHAHAHAHAA! YOU OKAY THERE? YOU WON'T BREAK IT USING YOUR STRENGTH. YOU'VE GOTTA THINK!

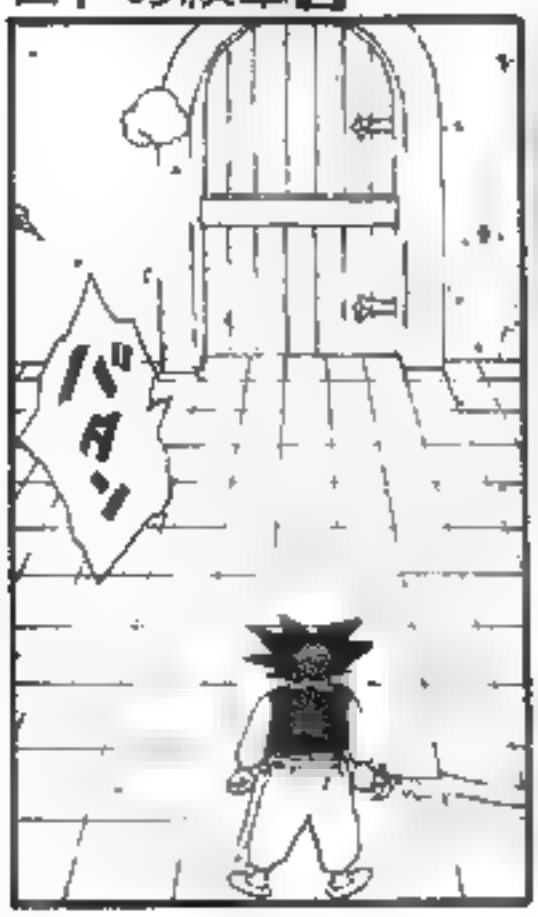
TH... THIS CRYSTAL'S GONNA TAKE 100 YEARS TO BREAK!

HAH HUFF

HEH PANT

C'MON ARUS! LET'S GO, LET'S GO!

TRY BREAKING IT WITHOUT USING STRENGTH AT ALL. KEEP THAT IN MIND... YOU UNDERSTAND YOUR TASK, SO JUST USE YOUR HEAD.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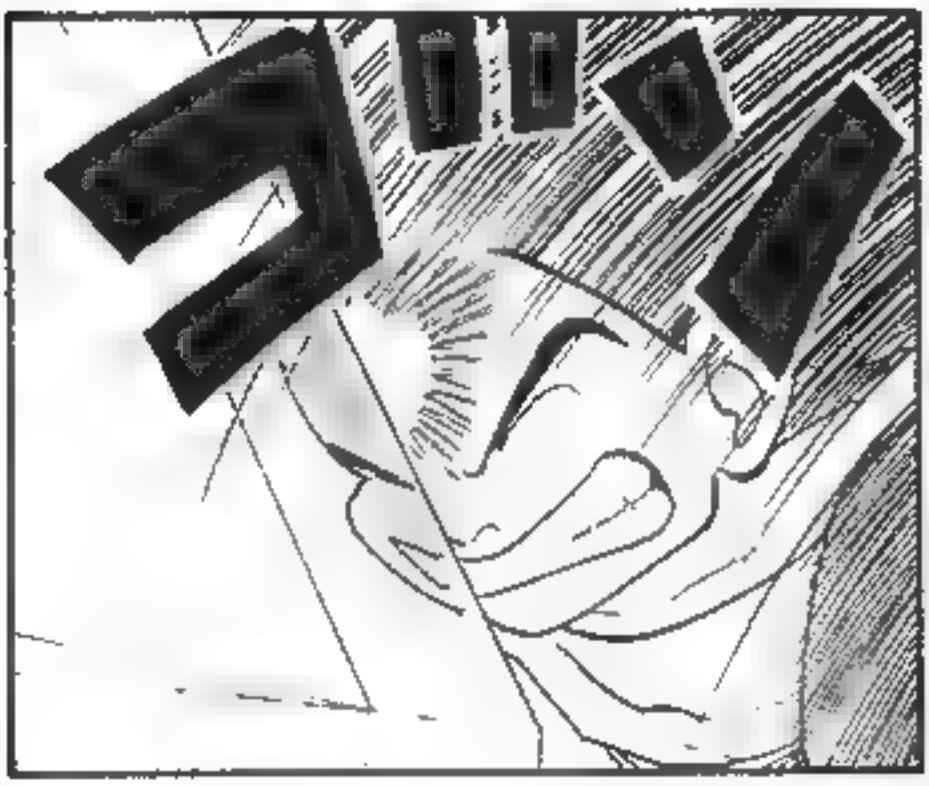
GOOD LUCK! DO YOUR BEST, KIRA!
YOU'D BETTER DO GOOD TOO!



USE YOUR HEAD, HUH... ALRIGHT!

...I KNEW THAT WAS WRONG, BUT I HAD TO TRY IT...
OWOW

WH...WHAT IS THIS ROOM?

THIS IS THE LAIR OF A MADARA SPIDER... NOT A SINGLE MONSTER HAS COME OUT OF HERE ALIVE.

NNN

EHH?!

IT'S ALRIGHT. IT IMMEDIATELY ATTACKS ANYTHING THAT COMES IN CONTACT WITH ITS WEB...

OVER THERE, IN THAT CORNER... RESTING ON THAT PLATFORM IS THE BOOK OF SATORI, WHOSE KNOWLEDGE WAS ETCHED INTO ONE LITHOGRAPH.

BUT IT SPENDS MOST OF ITS TIME SLEEPING, AND ISN'T DANGEROUS WHEN LEFT ALONE.

BUT GETTING KILLED BY THAT SPIDER WOULD BE BAD. SO JUST USE YOUR BRAINS, AND MAKE YOUR OWN PATH.

Y .YESSIR!

USE WEAPONS OR MAGIC; WHICHEVER YOU PREFER.

YOUR TASK IS TO TAKE THAT LITHO-GRAPH OUT OF HERE, ALIVE.

I'LL BE WAITING IN THE ROOM ABOVE THIS ONE, SO BRING THE BOOK OF SATORI TO ME WHEN YOU'RE DONE.

SEEYA

.....

ANYWAY, I GUESS I COULD CUT A PATH LIKE THIS...

...WELL, I SAID THAT I'D DO IT... ..BUT IS THIS ALRIGHT?

AH!

IT... WON'T COME OFF!

AGH!

UWAAA!

OOO

VXMV!!

HYAAA!

NNN
OOO

OOO
NNN

WH... WHAT KIND OF CREATURE IS THAT...?

DAAAA!

THAT KADAL GUY! TELLING ME TO BREAK SOMETHING WITHOUT USING MY STRENGTH.... IF NOT MY STRENGTH THEN WHAT...?

MY HEAD?

N... NO GOOD... EVERY-THING I HIT IT WITH BREAKS...

!!

OH CRAP!

UWAAA!

AAH! JUST BARELY MADE IT!

PHEW

I'VE GOT THE BOOK, SO NOW ALL I HAVE TO DO IS GET OUT OF HERE ALIVE...

NOW THEN

NO! IF I DO THAT, THEN KADAL WILL THROW ME OUT!

AT THIS RATE, I WON'T EVEN BE ABLE TO MAKE IT BACK THROUGH THE MADARA SPIDER'S WEB AGAIN... MAYBE I SHOULD CALL FOR HELP...

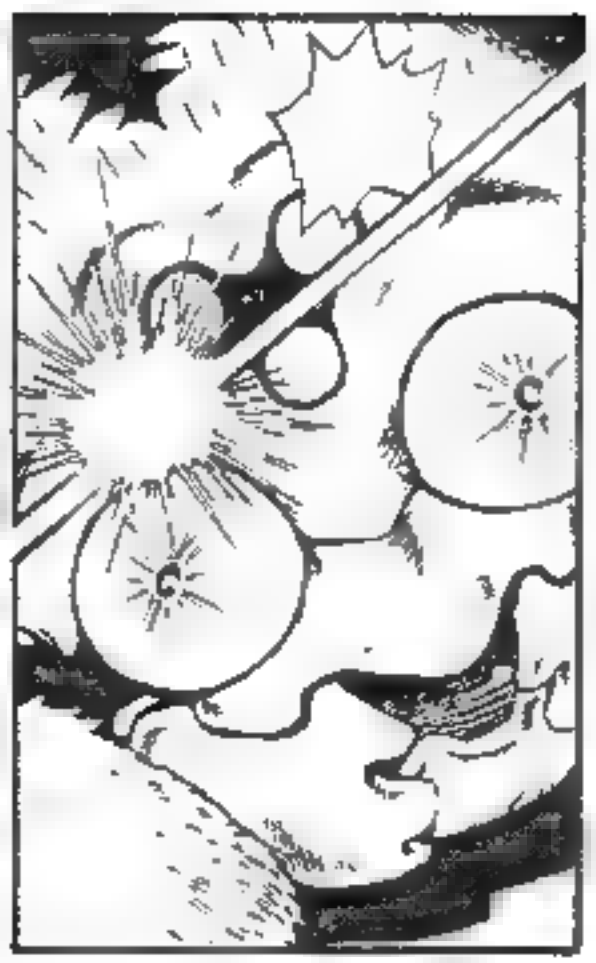
HUHH... I JUST CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING...

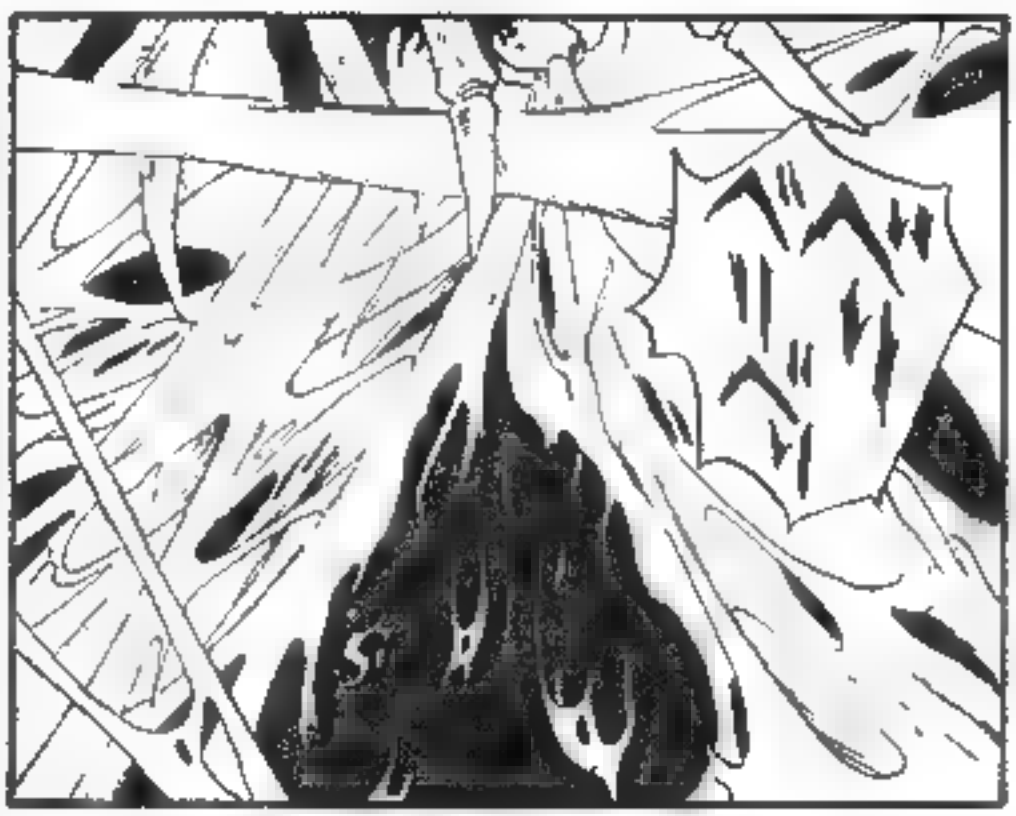
THE SMARTS AND STRENGTH OF ROTO...

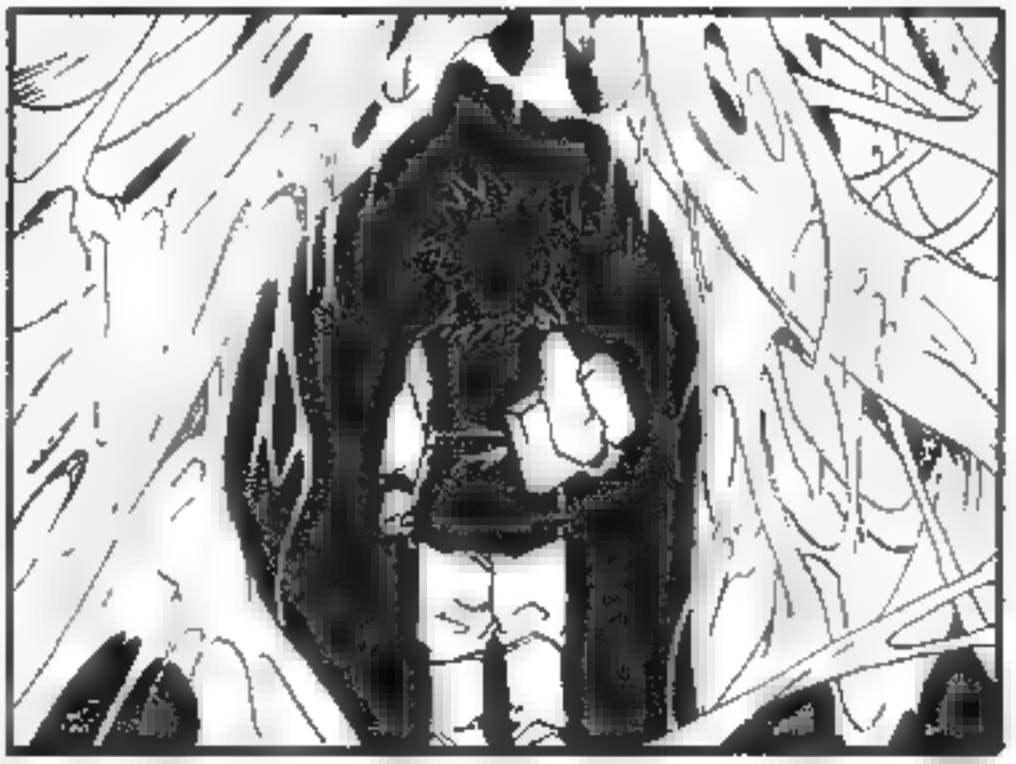
THE BOOK OF SATORI, HUH... "BELIEVE IN YOURSELF... OPEN YOUR HEART WIDE... THEN, THE PATH WILL BE OPEN TO YOU..."

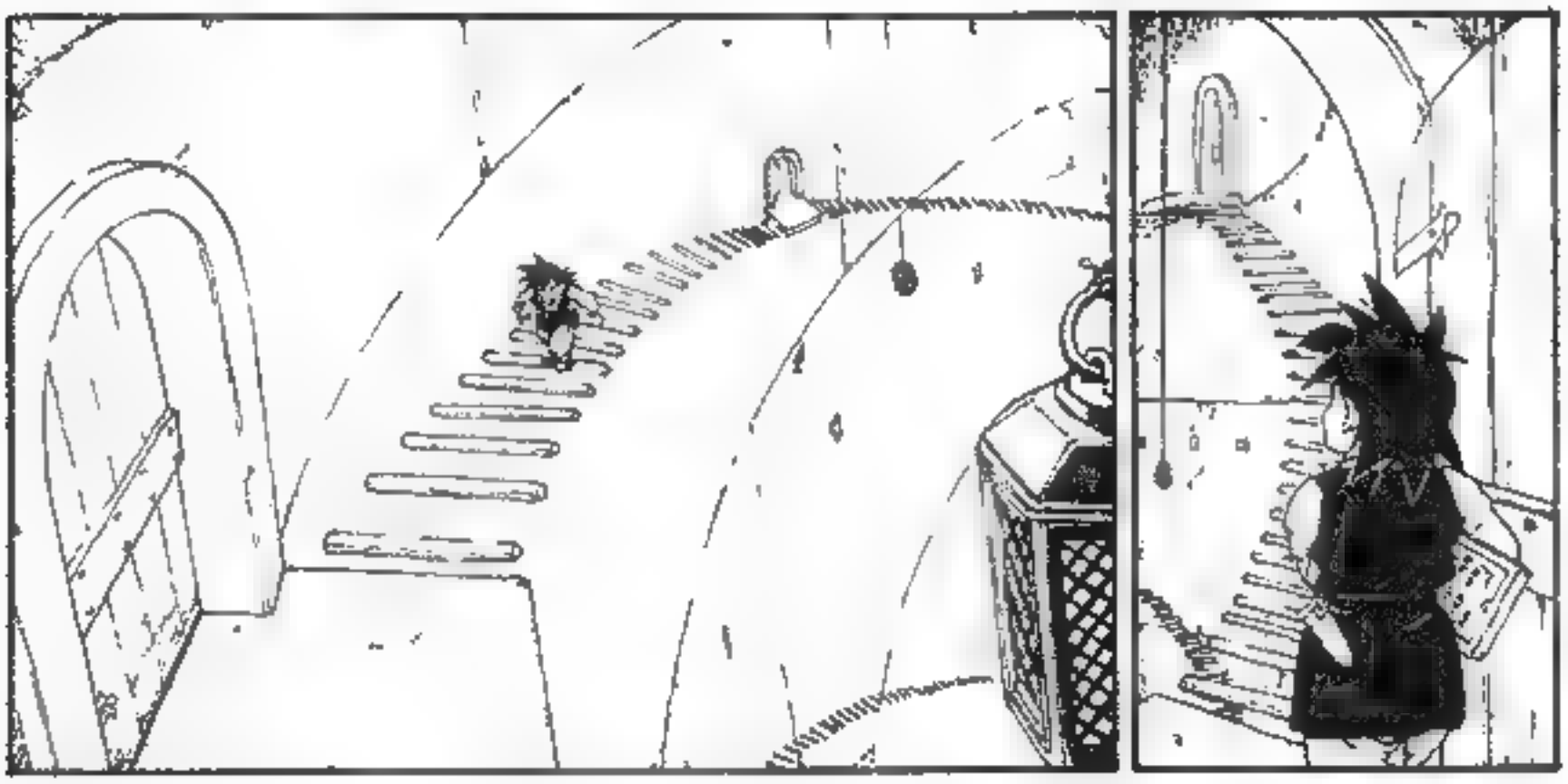
"WHEN THE HEART IS OPEN, I WILL BECOME HIM, AND HE WILL BECOME ME..."

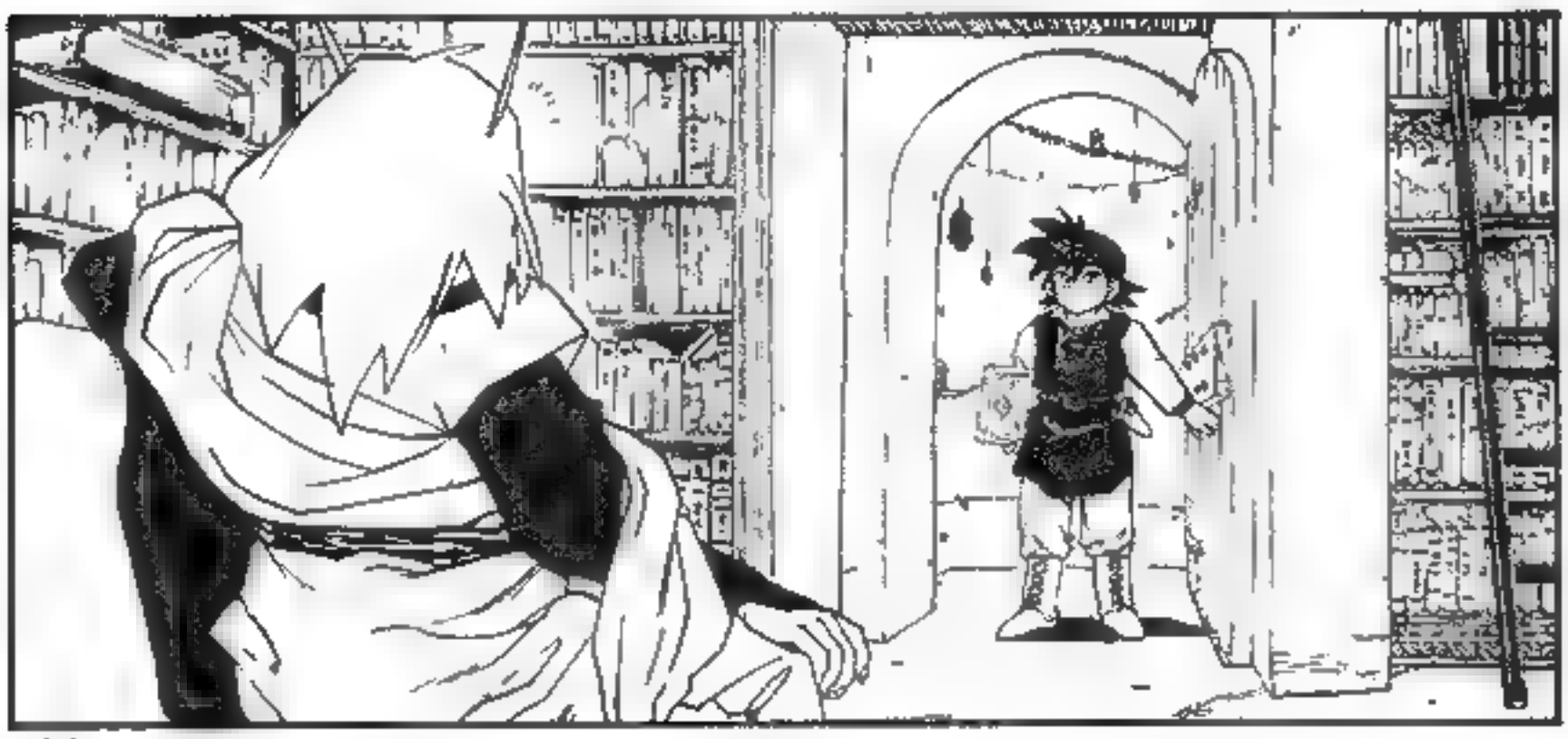
HM? HEY! THAT'S IT! I THINK I'VE GOT IT!











I OPENED MY OWN HEART, SO THAT THE MADARA SPIDER'S HEART, AND MINE, BECAME EACH OTHER...

AND HOW DID YOU ESCAPE THE SPIDER'S CLUTCHES?

I'M SURPRISED ARUS! YOU CAME MUCH MORE QUICKLY THAN I EXPECTED!

AFTER THAT, IT WAS SIMPLE... I JUST OPENED A PATH THROUGH THE WEB WHILE HE WASN'T IN IT.

SO THEN, IT ALL BECAME CLEAR. I WAS THE SPIDER AND IT WAS ME!

YESSIR!

THAT'S IT! YOU'VE PASSED MY FIRST LESSON! DON'T FORGET WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED HERE!

YUP YUP

WELL THEN! I GUESS IT'S ABOUT TIME TO CHECK ON KIRA'S PROGRESS.

HUFF HUFF

HAH HAH

DON'T USE STRENGTH, HUH... HUFF... I'M NEARLY OUT OF STRENGTH ANYWAY...

HUH HEH

IT WON'T DO ANY GOOD, BUT I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING ELSE TO TRY...

THERE'S ONLY ONE SWORD LEFT... CHE! RUSTY PIECE OF JUNK.

EY!

UWAA!

THE SWORD'S FORM IS CHANGING!

WH-WHA! WHAA?!

WH... WHAT THE HECK IS THIS SWORD?!

カッ カッ カッ

EERRRK!

ズル…

TH.. THE CRYSTAL... WAS JUST A ROCK?!

JUST WHAT THE HECK'S GOING ON HERE?!

WHAT DO YOU THINK? DO YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'LL REMEMBER THIS LESSON?

GREAT SAGE! ARUS!

HEEYY! GOOD WORK, GOOD WORK!

パパパ チチチ

SO IT WAS ALL BECAUSE OF THE SWORD!

HM... GO ON...

Y..YES! I HADN'T CONSIDERED THAT YOU COULD CUT A CRYSTAL WITH NO STRENGTH, JUST USING A SWORD...

EH?!

NO! FROM THE BEGINNING YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BREAK THE CRYSTAL USING YOUR OWN TRUE POWER!

BECAUSE IT'S A SPECIAL SWORD!

HM? WHAT?!

YOU HAVE AN ABUNDANCE OF NATURAL POWER.

THE FIRST LESSON WAS MADE TO BRING IT OUT.

BUT.. BUT... THE SWORD DID MANAGE TO CUT THE CRYSTAL...

YOUR OWN SPIRIT ENERGY COULD HAVE CUT THAT CRYSTAL JUST AS EFFECTIVELY.

FROM YOUR OWN NATURAL MOVEMENT, "SPIRIT ENERGY" IS FORMED. WITH THIS "SPIRIT ENERGY", YOU CAN PERFORM MIRACULOUS FEATS!

EH, SO I HAVE NATURAL TALENT THEN?

GAH!

DON'T BE NAIVE! YOU SHOULDN'T LET YOURSELF BECOME BOASTFUL. I'LL JUST HAVE TO MAKE THE NEXT TEST HARDER!

THIS IS THE SWORD OF LIGHT, WHICH CAN COUNTER DARK ENERGY... I'D TOTALLY FORGOTTEN I HAD LEFT IT HERE, SO IT DID GIVE YOU AN ADVANTAGE.

BUT, YOU DID FIND A TREASURE HERE...

ONCE YOU CAN MANAGE TO CLEAR ALL OF MY TRIALS, ARUS, THIS SWORD WILL BE YOURS!

BUT IT SHOULD BELONG TO MY PROTEGE.

EH?

FUFUFU.. I'LL PREPARE A SPECIAL PRESENT JUST FOR YOU! DON'T WORRY.

Y-YES

EEEH? AND ME? DON'T I GET ANYTHING?

AWRIGHT!

NAHAHAHAHAHA! FOR NOW, THE REST OF THE LESSONS CAN WAIT. YOU TWO CAN REST AFTER A GOOD, HEARTY MEAL!

WHAT'S FOR DESSERT?!

EH?

OI, OI! EAT MORE SLOWLY! NOBODY'S GONNA TAKE IT FROM YOU.

PHEW

WHEW...

GOBBLE GOBBLE

MUNCH MUNCH

YOU TWO STILL HAVEN'T HAD YOUR FILL?

MY TRAINING WILL ALLOW YOU TO ACCESS MANY OF THOSE SPELLS.

IN THESE TIMES, ALL MAGIC IS HANDED DOWN FROM ELDER MAGICIANS AND PRIESTS.

YEAH

WELL, FINISH WHAT YOU WANT... ARUS, ARE YOU LISTEN-ING?

SECRET SPELLS?!

BUT, THAT'S NOT ALL. THERE ARE SECRET, MORE POWERFUL SPELLS OUT THERE, AS WELL.

ASTARON, A SPELL WHICH TURNS PEOPLE INTO INDESTRUCTABLE IRON STATUES... THESE ARE SPELLS THAT ONLY A TRUE HERO COULD USE.

RAIDEIN, A SPELL TO ABSORB POWER FROM THE SKY AND STRIKE THE ENEMY WITH GLISTENING BOLTS OF LIGHTNING... GIGADEIN, ITS HIGHER LEVEL VARIANT...

ガ" ガ" ガ" ガ"

HM, MM

THAT'S RIGHT! AS A DESCENDANT OF ROTO'S BLOOD, I THINK YOU HAVE ALL THE QUALITIES OF A TRUE HERO.

TRUE HERO...

モモ ｱﾞｱﾞ

YESSIR, I'LL DO MY BEST!

BUT THOSE QUALITIES ARE STILL DIM, AND NEED POLISHING TO BE REFINED. WHEN YOUR HEART TRULY SHINES, THE POWER OF A TRUE HERO WILL SURFACE.

ME TOO, ME TOO!

AH, REALLY! I'LL DO MY BEST, NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES!

.....

INDEED. I'M A LITTLE ANXIOUS, BUT...

WHAT I TEACH YOU HERE WILL BECOME THE KEY TO GAINING MORE ON YOUR OWN LATER.

RIGHT!

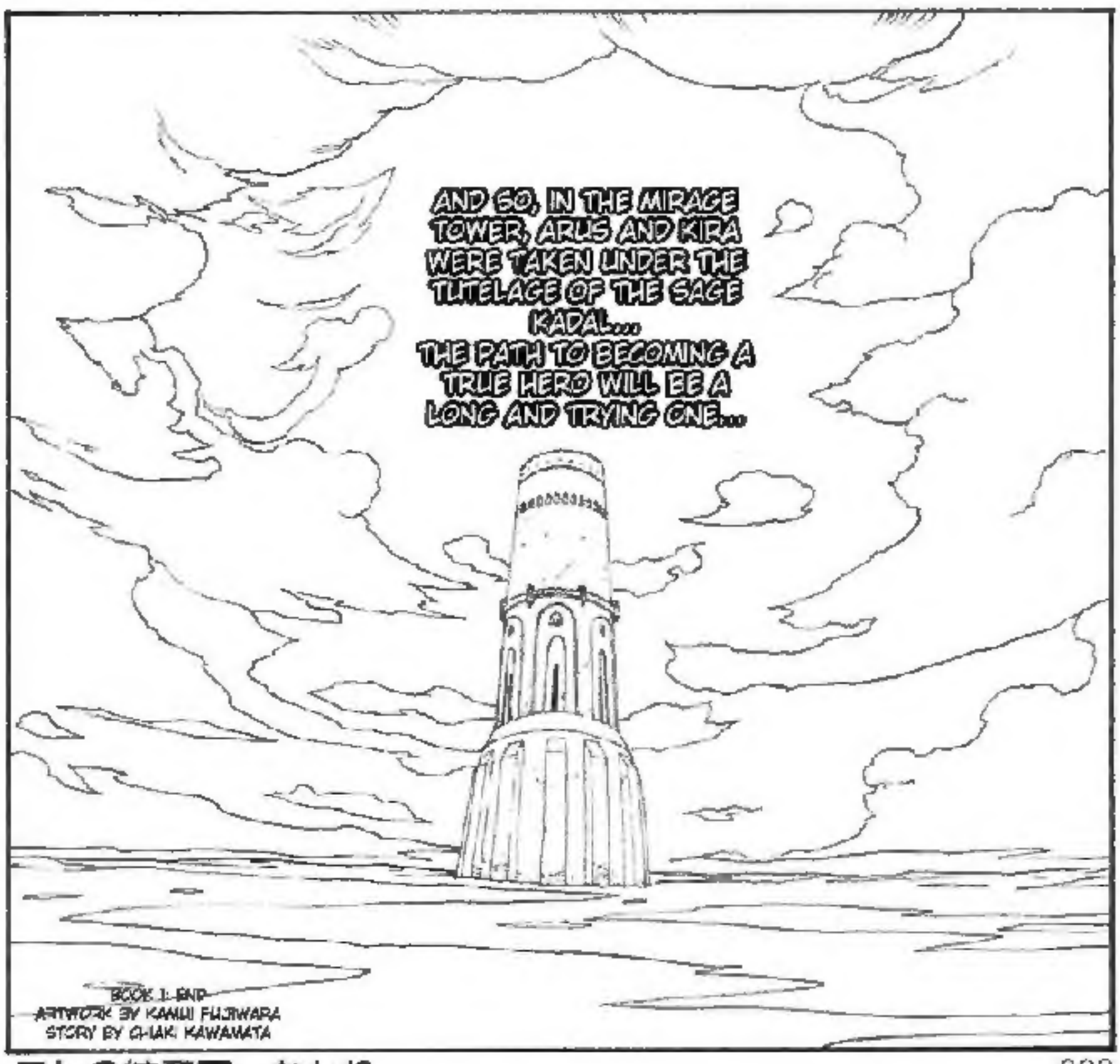
GEEH! WE DON'T GET TO REST?!

IDIOT! THIS IS NO PLACE FOR WUSSES!

AALLRIGHT! THEN IT'S TIME FOR THE NEXT TASK!

HURRY UP, YOU TWO IDIOTS! STOP THAT SLACKING!

YEAH...
OI! JUST TWO OR THREE MORE, AND WE'LL BE FINISHED!


AND SO, IN THE MIRAGE TOWER, ARUS AND KIRA WERE TAKEN UNDER THE TUTELAGE OF THE SAGE KADAL...
THE PATH TO BECOMING A TRUE HERO WILL BE A LONG AND TRYING ONE...
BOOK 1: END
ARTWORK BY KANJI FUJIWARA
STORY BY CHIAKI KAWAMATA